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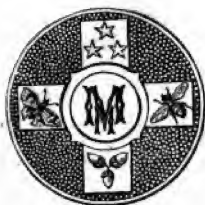




SAMSON AGONISTES.







MILTONI  
SAMSON AGONISTES.

GRÆCE REDDIDIT

GEORGIUS, BARO LYTTTELTON.

νῦν αὖτε σκοπὸν ἄλλον.



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APUD MACMILLAN ET SOC.  
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300 . g . 18 .

CANTABRIGIÆ  
TYPIS ACADEMICIS EXCUDERAT  
C. J. CLAY, A. M.

CAROLO J. BAYLEY,

INTER SODALES SUOS

ANTIQUISSIMO,

GRAIORUM MUSÆ

AMANTISSIMO,

D. D.

L.



VIR eruditus Edvardus Greswell, cum Miltoni  
poema cui titulus Samson Agonistes Græce  
reddidisset, non manum de tabula sustulit donec  
alterum illud quod Comus vocatur in eandem linguam  
æqua diligentia, æquo successu, transfudisset. Quem  
sane iniquo Marte æmulari ausus, inverso ordine, qui  
Comum olim aggressus fuerim, non mihi temperavi  
quin Samsonem etiam tractandum susciperem: pro-  
culdubio nihil posthac in eodem genere, nisi fortasse

brevissima quædam et levissima, tentaturus. Extremum hunc concede laborem.

Memor autem mendorum quæ plurima, quæ gravia, Comum istum maculaverant, quem nimis audacter in lucem emissem absque doctiorum et exercitiorum recensione, opus meum, priusquam publici juris fieret, nonnullis in hoc genere spectatis excutiendum commisi. Viris doctissimis, humanissimis, præsertim A. W. Chatfield, C. O. Goodford, F. A. Paley, R. Shilleto, grates mihi impense, iterum atque iterum agendæ sunt, propter operam in re molesta et longi laboris, sedulissime, felicissime, navatam. Horum ope, ni valde fallor, sperare licet Criticos in hoc libello graviore saltem errores non deprehensos esse. Meminerit vero lector, me fere in omnibus quæ VV. DD. corrigenda notaverint, illorum iudicium meo anteposuisse: nunquam, nisi in paucis

iisque levioris momenti, verba ipsa quæ abundanter suppeditabant, usurpasse. Hanc mihi legem imponendam censui, non, mehercle, quia ignarus essem quantum meis præstarent ista, sed ne plumis alienis, ut aiunt, decoratus prodirem.

Attamen unum est in quo, pace optimorum virorum, animum non potui inducere ut in ipsorum verba omnino jurarem. In Præfatione ad Comum libertatem aliquatenus nobis vindicare ausus sum, ut vocabula ex auctoribus Graiis quidem sed inferioris monetæ, trahere liceret. Idem hodie impetrare velim, neque aliis ex magna parte rationibus, qui libenter verba, ipsa neutiquam a poetica indole, si quid sentio, abhorrentia, in carmen admittenda arbitrer, etsi in reliquiis Graiorum poetarum, fractis illis et mutilis, quæ solæ ad nos casu quodam pervenerint, non repariantur. Quæritur, ni fallor, non separatim de Musa



Græca vel Latina. Ecquis vero unquam e nostratibus aut ex Italicis, vetitum sibi vocabulum habuit tantum quia ab alio quodam poeta non ante usurpatum fuerit? Verbum sane elegans et poeticæ dictioni consentaneum est: Plato, Demosthenes, Xenophon, adhibuerunt; sed in paucis istis quæ supersunt Tragædiis, Æschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, non adhibuerunt. Ideone compertum est nunquam adhibuisse, vel re nata non adhibituros fuisse? Iterum, obsecro, animadvertat iudex candidus, quot exstent ἄπαξ λεγόμενα in Græcæ poeseos monumentis.

Denique, diserte mihi hæc sententia proferenda est, licentiam istam qua V. D. Greswell plusquam satis usus est, fingendi prorsus vocabula quæ nusquam apud antiquos inveniuntur, plane intolerabilem esse; neque fines istos unquam egressus sum. Perpauca quidem sunt, quæ huic regulæ videntur solum adversari, re

ipsa non adversata. Cum Æschylus *δυσεκλύτως*, Sophocles *ὑψικόμπως*, dixerit, cum et *συνεκβάλλω* et *ἐκβλητος* apud probos auctores occurrant, non me *νεωτερίζειν* opinor, qui vocibus *δυσέκλυτος*, *ὑψίκομπος*, *συνέκβλητος* utar: sed longe aliud fecit vir ingeniosus qui nos in hoc ludo antecessit. Profecto, quæ est linguæ copia et facilitas, nihil magis in promptu foret quam Græcè scribere, si hæc nobis venia data esset.





SAMSON AGONISTES.



SAMSON.

MANOAH.

DALILA.

HARAPHA.

OFFICER.

MESSENGER.

CHORUS OF DANITES.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.  
ΜΑΝΩΣ.  
ΔΗΑΙΛΗ.  
ἩΡΑΦΑΣ.  
ΚΗΡΤΞ.  
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.  
ΧΟΡΟΣ ΔΑΝΗΤΩΝ.



## SAMSON AGONISTES.

SAMSON.



LITTLE onward lend thy guiding hand  
To these dark steps, a little further on;  
For yonder bank hath choice of sun or shade.  
There I am wont to sit, when any chance  
Relieves me from my task of servile toil,  
Daily in the common prison else enjoined me;  
Where I, a prisoner chained, scarce freely draw  
The air imprisoned also, close and damp,  
Unwholesome draught. But here I feel amends,  
The breath of heaven fresh blowing, pure and sweet, 10  
With day-spring born; here leave me to respire.  
This day a solemn feast the people hold  
To Dagon their sea-idol, and forbid



## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ ΑΓΩΝΙΣΤΗΣ.

### ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

Σὺ χειραγωγὸς ὀμματοστερῇ βάσιν  
πρόσω τί μοι ποίμαινε· τήνδ' ὄχθην κατά  
ἔστιν τὰ καύματ' ἀνταμείβεσθαι σκιᾶς,  
καὶ δὴ τύχῃ λυθέντα τοῦ καθ' ἡμέραν  
πόνου, κάθῃσθαι· δουλίαις γὰρ ἄλλοτε  
πέδαις βιασθεῖς, κοινὸν εἰληχῶς βάρος,  
δύσοσμ', ἐν εὐρώεντι δεσμωτηρίῳ,  
μιάσμαθ' ἔλκω ξυμπαθόντος αἴερος.  
ἀλλ' ἐνθάδ' ἀντίμισθον ἡδύπνου τὸδε  
οὐράνιον αὔρας νεογενοῦς ἄημά μοι  
ἑωθιναῖς ἀκτίσι σύμφυτον γάνος  
πάρεστ' ἄχραντον· ὧδ' ἐλινῦσαι θέλω.  
τῷ γὰρ Δάγωνι, τῷ θαλασσίῳ θεῷ,  
τανῦν ἐορτάζοντες οἱ ταύτη βροτοὶ



Laborious works—unwillingly this rest  
Their superstition yields me—hence, with leave  
Retiring from the popular noise, I seek  
This unfrequented place to find some ease—  
Ease to the body some, none to the mind  
From restless thoughts, that, like a deadly swarm  
Of hornets armed, no sooner found alone 20  
But rush upon me thronging, and present  
Times past, what once I was, and what am now.  
O, wherefore was my birth from Heaven foretold  
Twice by an Angel? who at last, in sight  
Of both my parents, all in flames ascended  
From off the altar, where an offering burned,  
As in a fiery column charioting  
His godlike presence, and from some great act  
Or benefit revealed to Abraham's race.  
Why was my breeding ordered and prescribed, 30  
As of a person separate to God,  
Designed for great exploits, if I must die  
Betrayed, captived, and both my eyes put out,

δύοιστον ἀπεκήρυξαν ἐν πόλει κόπον·  
 ἄκοντες οὖν, τὸ θεῖον εὐλαβούμενοι,  
 ἐὼς μ' ᾧδε, δημίῳ κραυγῆς ἄπο,  
 χώραν προσελθεῖν ἄβροτον, ἄμπαυλάν τινα,  
 ἣν πως τύχη γε, σώματος κακῶν ἔχειν·  
 οὐ γάρ ποτ' οὐδὲ σμικρὸν ἢ ἔν φρεσὶν δῖη 20  
 λωφᾶν δύναιτ' ἄν, θανάσιμων σφηκῶν τρόπον  
 ἐπεγχυθεῖσα τῷδε τῷ παναθλίῳ  
 ἄπαυστος, οἰωθέντι περιτυχοῦς' ἀεὶ,  
 τὰ δὲ παλαιὰ παραβαλοῦσα τοῖσι νῦν.  
 φεῦ· τί γὰρ μεγίστου σεμνὸς ἄγγελος Θεοῦ  
 δισσοῖσι τὰμὰ προῦννεπεν μαντεύμασι  
 γενέθλι', ἀθρούντοιν δὲ τοῖν γεννητόρου  
 διφρηλάτης ὥς, πυρφόρῳ καλύμματι  
 ἀγαστὸς, οἷον οὐ κατ' ἄνθρωπον γεγώς,  
 ἀπ' ὦρτο βωμοῦ τοῦ καθιερωμένου, 30  
 εἰ μὴ γέρας τι τοῦ Θεοῦ τῇ πατρίδι  
 τῇ ἢ μὴ προδεικνύς; καμὲ τῷ Θεῷ τροφοὶ  
 ἐχώρισαν τάξαντες, ὥς ἔργοις ἔπι  
 ῥητοῖσι, μηδὲ τοῦ τυχόντος ἐκτελεῖν,  
 εἰ δὲ πέπρωται παρακεκρουσμένον θανεῖν  
 δοῦλόν τε, δισσῶν τ' ὁμμάτων ἀχηνία,

Made of my enemies the scorn and gaze,  
To grind in brazen fetters under task  
With this Heaven-gifted strength? O glorious strength,  
Put to the labour of a beast, debased  
Lower than bondslave! Promise was that I  
Should Israel from Philistian yoke deliver.  
Ask for this great deliverer now, and find him 40  
Eyeless in Gaza, at the mill with slaves,  
Himself in bonds under Philistian yoke.  
Yet stay, let me not rashly call in doubt  
Divine prediction. What if all foretold  
Had been fulfilled but through mine own default!  
Whom have I to complain of but myself?  
Who, this high gift of strength committed to me,  
In what part lodged, how easily bereft me,  
Under the seal of silence could not keep,  
But weakly to a woman must reveal it, 50  
O'ercome with importunity and tears.  
O impotence of mind, in body strong!  
But what is strength without a double share

ἐχθροῖς γέλοιον θαῦμ'· ἀναγκαίῳ μόρφ,  
 δεσμοῖς τε χαλκέοισιν, ἐξαντλεῖν πόνον,  
 ἐς τοῦθ' ὑπῆρχε θεόδοτον σθένος τόδε  
 τὸ σεμνότιμον, θηρὸς οὐ θητὸς λαχὼν 40  
 αἰσχιστον ἀξίωμα· τόνδ' ὀράτε με,  
 τὸν τοὺς πολίτας τῶν Φιλιστίνων ἄπο  
 ἐλευθερώσουθ', ἥδε γὰρ Θεοῦ φάτις·  
 ὀράτε τὸν σωτήρα, τῆς σωτηρίας  
 αὐτὸν μάλ' ὑστεροῦντα, χῶν ποτ' ἐκράτει  
 δοῦλον, ταλαιπωροῦντα συνδούλων μέτα,  
 τυφλὸν τε, Γάζῃ κάτοχον· ἀλλ' οὐ τὸν Θεὸν  
 ἔστιν παρόντων αἰτιάσασθαι κακῶν,  
 ὃς πάντ' ἔμελλε θεσπίσας καὶ δρᾶν ἐμοί·  
 αὐτὸς δ' ἐμαντῶ πημονὰς ἐφείλκυσα· 50  
 σθένος γὰρ ἦν μοι τόδε παρηγγυημένον·  
 τὸ δ' εὖ μάλ' εἰδὼς οὐπερ ἦν τοῦ σώματος,  
 τό τ' ἐκβαλεῖν πρόχειρον, ἐκβέβληχ' ὅμως,  
 δείξας τὰ δῶρα τὰσφαλῶς κεκρυμμένα,  
 κλαυθμῶν ἕκατι καὶ γυναικείου στόνου.  
 φρενῶν κέκομμαι, σῶμα δ' ἔρρώμαι μόνον.  
 τί δ' ἄν τις οὖν ὄναιτο τῆς ῥώμης μόνον,  
 ὅγκῳ πελώρῳ περιπεσὼν ἀνωφελεῖ,

Of wisdom? vast, unwieldy, burdensome,  
Proudly secure, yet liable to fall  
By weakest subtleties, not made to rule,  
But to subserve where wisdom bears command.  
God, when he gave me strength, to shew withal  
How slight the gift was, hung it in my hair.  
But peace! I must not quarrel with the will 60  
Of highest dispensation, which herein  
Haply had ends above my reach to know.  
Suffices that to me strength is my bane,  
And proves the source of all my miseries;  
So many and so huge, that each apart  
Would ask a life to wail; but chief of all,  
O loss of sight! of thee I most complain!  
Blind among enemies, O worse than chains,  
Dungeon, or beggary, or decrepit age!  
Light, the prime work of God, to me is extinct, 70  
And all her various objects of delight  
Annulled, which might in part my grief have eased,  
Inferior to the vilest now become  
Of man or worm; the vilest here excel me.

σοφίας γ' ἁμαρτῶν, ἧς ἔδει μάλ' ἐξόχου;  
 ἐν ᾧπερ ἐδόκουν καὶ μάλ' ἐστηριγμένος, 60  
 φαύλοισιν αἰσchrῶς ἐσφάλην σοφίσμασι.  
 σθένος γὰρ οὔ ποτ' ἐν βροτοῖς ἄρχειν ἔφυ,  
 ὑπηρετεῖν δὲ, τῶν σοφῶν ἡγουμένων  
 πρὸς ταῦθ' ὁ Δαίμων, καὶ διδοὺς τοῖον γέρας,  
 τὰ δῶρ' ἀπηξίωσε μὴ τιμὴν ἔχειν,  
 κόμαις ξυνάψας. ἀλλὰ μοι σιγᾶν πρέπει,  
 στέργειν τε κρυπτὰ τοῦ Θεοῦ βουλευματα,  
 τοῦ πάντα ταμιεύοντος· ἀρκείτω τόδε·  
 σθένος τόδε ξύμπαντος αἵτιον κακοῦ,  
 τοῦ σφόδρ' ὑπερβάλλοντος, ὥστε πημάτων 70  
 ἕκαστα μὴδὲ διαβιοῦν κλαίοντά με  
 ἄλλῃς δύνασθαι· τοῦτο δ' ἔσθ' ὃ δύρομαι,  
 τό μοι κάκιστον, ἢ βλάβῃ τῶν ὀμμάτων.  
 τυφλὸς παρ' ἐχθροῖς, ἄρα μὴ δεσμῶν πλέω  
 πέπονθ' ἀσιτίας τε καὶ γήρως τάδε;  
 τὰ παρὰ Θεοῦ πρωτεῖα, τὴν αὐγὴν λέγω,  
 ὀλωλ' ἐμοῦ γ' ἕκατι, χῶν ἂν ἄλλοτε  
 σμικρὸν παρηγόρημα, ποικίλῃ χαρᾷ,  
 πόνους ἀπηύρων, ἐκλέλοιπε πανταχοῦ·  
 καὶ γὰρ ἀνθρώπους λέγω, 80  
 ἄδοξός ἐιμ', ἃ καὶ χαμαιπετὴ βλέπει·

They creep, yet see ; I, dark in light, exposed  
To daily fraud, contempt, abuse, and wrong,  
Within doors, or without, still as a fool,  
In power of others, never in my own ;  
Scarce half I seem to live, dead more than half.  
O dark, dark, dark, amid the blaze of noon,  
Irrecoverably dark : total eclipse,  
Without all hope of day !  
O first created beam, and thou great word,  
“Let there be light” and light was over all,  
Why am I thus bereaved thy prime decree?  
The sun to me is dark,  
And silent as the moon,  
When she deserts the night,  
Hid in her vacant interlunar cave.  
Since light so necessary is to life,  
And almost life itself—if it be true  
That light is in the soul,  
She all in every part—why was the sight  
To such a tender ball as the eye confined,  
So obvious and so easy to be quenched,  
And not, as feeling, through all parts diffused,  
That she might look at will through every pore?  
Then had I not been thus exiled from light,  
As in the land of darkness, yet in light,

ἐμοὶ δ' ἀφεγγὲς φέγγος, οὐδ' ἄρ' ὕβρεως  
 ἀτιμίας τε καὶ δόλων καθ' ἡμέραν,  
 οἴκοι, θύραζε, μωρὸς ὥς, ἀφίσταμαι,  
 ζῶν ὧδ' ἐπ' ἄλλοις, ἡμιθιγῆς καὶ τῷ βίῳ.  
 μεσσημερία λαμπὰς, φεῦ, φεῦ,  
 πάντως ἐξέλιπ', ἐξέλιπ' ἐλπίς·  
 φῶς πρωτόγονον καὶ πάνταρχον  
 τὸ προκηρυχθὲν θεόθεν, φρουδον·  
 φρουδὸς δ' ἥλιος, ὡς ὅτε δίας  
 ὄμμα σελήνης ἔξεδρον ἄστρον  
 ἄντροις ἀλαοῖς ᾤχετ' ἄφωνον,

90

περιτελλομένων

μηνῶν ἐπὶ καιρὸν ἀμοιβῆς.  
 ἀλλ' εἴ γε τὸ ζῆν τοῦτ' ἀναγκαῖον τρέφει  
 κἀντάξιον τὸ φῶς, διηκούσης τὸ πᾶν  
 ψυχῆς κάτοικον, πρὸς τί τὰν προὔπτῳ τάδε  
 λέλογχε φῶς, εὐβλαπτον, ὀφθαλμῶν ἔδη;  
 ἔδει γάρ, εἰ δὴ πάντοσ' αἰσθέσθαι πάρα,  
 καὶ τοῦ βλέποντος σῶμα πανταχοῦ βλέπειν. 100  
 οὐχ ὡς τὰ γε νῦν ἀνὴρ ἔδ' ἔχει,  
 περικυκλώσεως ἀποκληρωθεὶς,  
 ὡς ἐν νεκρῶν δάμασιν, αὐγῆς.



To live a life half dead, a living death, 100  
And buried ; but O, yet more miserable !  
Myself my sepulchre, a moving grave ;  
Buried, yet not exempt,  
By privilege of death and burial,  
From worst of other evils, pains and wrongs ;  
But made hereby obnoxious more  
To all the miseries of life,  
Life in captivity  
Among inhuman foes.

But who are these? for with joint pace I hear 110  
The tread of many feet steering this way ;  
Perhaps my enemies, who come to stare  
At my affliction, and perhaps to insult,  
Their daily practice to afflict me more.

## CHORUS.

This, this is he ; softly a while,  
Let us not break in upon him.  
O change beyond report, thoughts or belief !

καὶ κάκιον, θήκην παρέχων  
 αὐτὸς ἐμαυτῷ σωματοειδῇ,  
 βίον ἐκτρίβων ἀβίωτον·  
 τῶν δὲ θανόντων, οἷά τε νεκρὸς,  
 γέρας οὐκ ἔλαβον, τῶν πικροτάτης  
 λύμης ἄτης τε λυθέντων·  
 οὐ γ' ἔτι μᾶλλον τῶν πρὶν κατέχει  
 πάντα τὰ θνητοῖς ἀλγεινότατα,  
 στερῶν τε πέδαι,  
 παρά τ' ἐχθροῖς θυμὸν ἀθέλκτοις.

110

ἂ, ἂ, ἔα, ἔα,  
 τίνων τοῦτο κοῖνῳ πελάζει βαδισμῷ  
 τὸ πλῆθος, ὥς κλύοντά γ' ἔστ' ἐπεικάσαι;  
 ἄρ' ἐχθρῶν στόλος ἀκμήτων,  
 σκοπουμένων με, καὶ γέλωτος οὐνεκα,  
 τὸ σφὶν ξύνηθες, τῶνδ' ἐπ' αὐξήσει κακῶν;

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὃδ' ἔσθ' ἀνὴρ· ἵχνος δὲ λεπτόν.  
 τιθῶμεν, ἦκα προσμολόντες·  
 φεῦ τὰς παρ' ἐλπίδα φθορὰς ἀπείρου·

120

See how he lies at random, carelessly diffused,  
With languished head unpropt,

As one past hope, abandoned, 120

And by himself given over,  
In slavish habit, ill-fitted weeds  
O'erworn and soiled.

Or do my eyes misrepresent? Can this be he?

That heroic, that renowned,

Irresistible Samson, whom unarmed

No strength of man, or fiercest wild beast could withstand;

Who tore the lion, as the lion tears the kid;

Ran on embattled armies clad in iron,

And, weaponless himself, 130

Made arms ridiculous, useless the forgery

Of brazen shield and spear, the hammered cuirass,

Chalybean tempered steel, and frock of mail

Adamantean proof;

But safest he who stood aloof,

When insupportably his foot advanced,

ἴρᾱτε δ' εἰκῇ χύδην κείμενον,  
 κᾶρα τε νεῦον ἀμένη-  
 νον, ἄφιλον ἄλλως δυσέλ-  
 πιδ' αὐτόγνωτον ὄντ'·  
 ἀεικεῖ δουλίᾳ  
 στολᾷ τ' ἀλλοτρίᾳ δυσείδης  
 ἐμοῖς γοῦν ὄμμασιν πέφανται·  
 ὅδ' οὖν ὁ Σάμψων, ὁ δὴ παγκρατῆς, 130  
 ἀντίτιμος ἡρώων,  
 ὅς θ' ὑπερέσχ' ἄοπλος  
 ἀνδρῶν τῶν ὑπεράλλων  
 θηρῶν τ' ἀγριοθύμων,  
 ὃς λέοντ' ἔκαν', ὡς λέων ἀβρὸν ἔκτανε μόσχον·  
 στρατῶν γυμνὸς σιδηροχαρμῶν  
 ἄμαχος ἐπέσσυτο στίχοισι,  
 ἔθετο παρ' οὐδὲν ὕπλα χαλκότευκτα,  
 θώρηκα, ῥαιστήρος ἔργον, σάκη,  
 χαλυβδίκ' ἐγχείων στόματ', 140  
 ἀδαμαντίνους θ' ἄμμασι  
 χιτῶνας συμπαγεῖς.  
 ἀπελθὼν δ' ἀσφαλῆς,  
 τοῦδ' ἱλαδὸν ἐχθρὰ δυσπαλαίστου

In scorn of their proud arms and warlike tools,  
Spurned them to death by troops. The bold Ascalonite  
Fled from his lion ramp—old warriors turned  
Their plated backs under his heel, 140  
Or grovelling soiled their crested helmets in the dust.  
Then with what trivial weapon came to hand,  
The jaw of a dead ass, his sword of bone,  
A thousand foreskins fell, the flower of Palestine,  
In Ramath-lechi, famous to this day.  
Then by main force pulled up, and on his shoulders bore,  
The gates of Azza, post and massy bar,  
Up to the hill by Hebron, seat of giants old,  
No journey of a sabbath-day, and loaded so;  
Like whom the Gentiles feign to bear up heaven. 150  
Which shall I first bewail,  
Thy bondage or lost sight?  
Prison within prison  
Inseparably dark.  
Thou art become—O worst imprisonment!—  
The dungeon of thyself; thy soul  
—Which men enjoying sight oft without cause complain—

καταπατούντος μεγασθενή περ,  
 ὑπέροπλα· σύχ' ὡς λέοντ' ὄρμενον  
 ἔτρεσ' Ἀσκαλωνίτας·  
 χαλκείωντος ἐν μά-

χαις, πτήξας πόδα δεινόν,  
 ἔμπειρος πολεμιστῆς

150.

πήληχ' ὑψίλοφον κῶνει περιπεσῶν ἐμόλυνεν.

τὸ δ' αὖθις, ὦν πᾶς πέρι τὰ νῦν θροεῖ,  
 τοὺς χιλίους ἐν Ῥαμυληχίῳ φονεύσας,  
 ὄνου λαβὼν σιαγόν', ὅστινον ξίφος,  
 ἄωτον ἀπέταμε χθονός·

βία δὲ πυκνὰς ᾤχετ' ἀναφέρων  
 πρόρριζον αὐτοῖς πύλας μοχλοῖσι  
 σταθμοῖσί τ' Ἄζης, ἐς Ἑβρέαν

ἔδραν γιγάντων, τὸ δ' οὐ πάρεργον ἦν,  
 ἀλλ' ὥς τιν' ἄστρα φασὶ βάρβαροι φέρειν.

160.

τίν' οὖν κακῶν κάκιστά σοι;

δεσμῶν πέπονθας πλέω,  
 δεσμὰ δεσμῶν, ἀμαυρὸς αἶε.

κλησθεὶς αὐτὸς ἐν αὐτῷ

κακῶν ἔξοχα πάσχει·

εἰσὶν, οἳ γε δεδορκότες ψυχᾶς ὄμμα μάταιοι

Imprisoned now indeed,  
In real darkness of the body, dwells,  
Shut up from outward light, 160  
To incorporate with gloomy night ;  
For inward light, alas !  
Puts forth no visual beam.  
O mirror of our fickle state,  
Since man on earth, unparalleled !  
The rarer thy example stands,  
By how much, from the top of wondrous glory,  
Strongest of mortal men,  
To lowest pitch of abject fortune thou art fallen :  
For him I reckon not in high estate, 170  
Whom long descent of birth,  
Or the sphere of fortune, raises ;  
But thee whose strength, while virtue was her mate,  
Might have subdued the earth,  
Universally crowned with highest praises.

SAMSON.

I hear the sound of words ; their sense the air  
Dissolves unjointed ere it reach my ear.

CHORUS.

He speaks, let us draw nigh—Matchless in might,  
The glory late of Israel, now the grief!

κλαίουσ' ἀφεγγές· σὺ δ' οὖν οὐ μάταν,  
 ἔργῳ δύαισιν ἀλααῖς σώματος βιασθείς·  
 νύκτ' ἐνδέδυκας, φεῦ, διανταῖον κνέφας·  
 φρενῶν δὲ φῶς ἀνόμματον·

170

τοιαῦτ' ἰδεῖν ἔφυ τὰνθρώπινα·  
 ὑπερβέβηκας δ' ὅσ' ἦν τὰ πρόσθεν,  
 ἀφ' ὑψιπύργων ὃς ἐκπесῶν ἐδρῶν  
 τανῦν ἐφάνθης ἐπ' ἐσχάτοις τύχας,  
 ῥώμαν ἄριστος, οἷος οὐκ ἄλλος, τὸ πρῖν.  
 τιμᾶν ἐμοῦ γ' ἂν οὐ λάβοι  
 γένος παλαιὸν κλυτὸς,  
 ἢ τροπαῖσιν τύχας προκόψας,  
 σὺ δ', ὃν δόξα περιστε-  
 φῆς ἀνήγαγεν, ᾧ τ' ἂν ἔ-  
 δωκεν ἱς, ἀρετᾷ ξύνοικος, βροτῶν βασιλεύειν.

180

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἤκουσα φωνήν· ὃν δ' ἐσήμνηεν λόγον,  
 ἄναρθρος ἐρρύηκε, πρῖν γ' ὥτων θυγεῖν.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἡμᾶς προσελθεῖν, τοῦδε βάζοντος, χρεῶν.  
 φεῦ, φεῦ, κράτιστε, κύδος Ἑβραίοις πάλαι,



We come, thy friends and neighbours not unknown, 180  
From Eshtaol and Zora's fruitful vale,  
To visit or bewail thee: or, if better,  
Counsel or consolation we may bring,  
Salve to thy sores; apt words have power to swage  
The tumours of a troubled mind,  
And are as balm to festered wounds.

## SAMSON.

Your coming, friends, revives me; for I learn  
Now of my own experience, not by talk,  
How counterfeit a coin they are who friends  
Bear in their superscription,—of the most 190  
I would be understood. In prosperous days  
They swarm, but in adverse withdraw their head,  
Not to be found though sought. Ye see, O friends,  
How many evils have enclosed me round;  
Yet that which was the worst now least afflicts me,  
Blindness: for had I sight, confused with shame,  
How could I once look up, or heave the head?  
Who, like a foolish pilot, have shipwrecked

νῦν τοῦμπαλιν δακρυτὸς, ἤκομεν σέθεν  
 φίλοι τ' ἀπ' οἰκείων τε γείτονες τόπων,  
 Ἐσητάλου Ζώρας τε, παμφόρου πέδου,  
 σοὶ δηξιθύμων συστενάζοντες πόνων.  
 ἀλλ' εἴ τι τῶνδε κρεῖσσόν ἐστι συμβαλεῖν  
 παρηγοροῦντας ἢ παραινοῦντας, τόδε  
 τύχοις ἂν ἡμῶν, βουκολούμενος πάθη.  
 ἐστ' εὐεπεία παρακόπους κηλεῖν φρένας,  
 ἔλκη τις ὡς ἔθελεξεν ἐξηυθηκότα.

190

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ζωὴν τιν', ὑμῶν μοι προσελθόντων, νέαν  
 ξύνοιδα, κιβδήλου δὲ παράσημον τύπου  
 κόμμ' ἐγχαράχθην οἷς τὰ πλεῖστ' εἶχον φίλοις.  
 εὐπραξίαις συχνός τις, ἐν τροπαῖς χρόνων  
 ἀπ' ἄχετ', οὐδ' εὖροι τις ἂν μακρῷ πόνῳ.  
 ὁρᾷτέ μ', οἶα πάντοθεν πάσχω κακά.  
 ὃ δ' ἦν κάκιστον, τοῦδ' ἔτ' οὐκ ὥραν ἔχω,  
 τῆς τυφλότητος· καὶ γὰρ εἰ βλέπειν παρῆν,  
 πῶς ἂν δυναίμην ὁμμάτων ὀρθοστάδην  
 γλήνας ἐπαίρειν, τήνδ' ἔτ' αἰσχύνην ἔχων;  
 ὅστις, μάταιος ὥς τις οἰακοστρόφος,

200

My vessel, trusted to me from above,  
Gloriously rigged; and for a word, a tear,  
Fool, have divulged the secret gift of God  
To a deceitful woman. Tell me, friends,  
Am I not sung and proverbied for a fool  
In every street? do they not say, How well  
Are come upon him his deserts? Yet why?  
Immeasurable strength they might behold  
In me, of wisdom nothing more than mean;  
This with the other should at least have paired,  
These two, proportioned ill, drove me transverse.

200

## CHORUS.

Tax not divine disposal; wisest men  
Have erred, and by bad women been deceived;  
And shall again, pretend they ne'er so wise.  
Deject not then so overmuch thyself,  
Who hast of sorrow thy full load besides.  
Yet truth to say, I oft have heard men wonder  
Why thou should'st wed Philistian women rather  
Than of thine own tribe, fairer or as fair,  
At least of thine own nation, and as noble.

210

τὸ καλλιπρωρον θεόδοτον σκάφος τόδε  
 βύθοις ἐπόντις, αἰόλων ἥσσω λόγων  
 οἰμωγμάτων τε, κρυπτὸν ἐκ Θεοῦ γέρας  
 γυναικοβούλοις ἀποβαλεῖν σοφίσμασιν.  
 ἄρ' οὐ γελαστός τῶνδ' ἀκούσομαι, φίλοι, 210  
 ῥῥὰς παρασχὼν πᾶσι καὶ παροιμίαν;  
 “δράσας ὕδ', ἀντίποινα καὶ πάσχει, καλῶς.”  
 τί γάρ; σθένος με κάρθ' ὑπερβαλόντ' ἰδεῖν  
 ὑπῆρχε, σοφίαν δ' οὐδαμῶς ἰσόρροπον.  
 ἔδει γε ταύτην ἀντισηκώσαντ' ἔχειν,  
 ἀξυμμέτρῳ δὲ τῷδ' ὁδοῦ μ' ἐξήλασαν.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.


μὴ δὴ Θεῷ πρέπει σε μέμψασθαι νόμων.  
 πταίσαντας ἴσμεν πρὸς γυναικείοις δόλοις  
 σοφίαν γε τοὺς μάλιστα προσποιουμένους,  
 μέλλουσι δ' αὖθις· τὴν δ' ἄγαν ἀλγηδόνα 220  
 μὴ προστίθεται τῶν ἐνεστώτων βάρει.  
 ὅμως δὲ, ποίαν σκῆψιν οὐδ' Ἑβραϊκὴν  
 γάμοις προηροῦ, μὴ τυχὼν ἐμφυλίας,  
 τό γ' εὐγενές τε τὴν τε πρῶθησον χάριν  
 οὐκ ἐλλιπούσαν τῶν Φιλιστίνων, κόρην,  
 θαυμ' ἐστὶ κοινὸν, οὐδ' ἂν ἀντείποιμ' ἐγώ.

## SAMSON.

The first I saw at Timna, and she pleased  
Me, not my parents, that I sought to wed 220  
The daughter of an infidel. They knew not  
That what I motioned was of God; I knew  
From intimate impulse, and therefore urged  
The marriage on; that by occasion hence  
I might begin Israel's deliverance,  
The work to which I was divinely called.  
She proving false, the next I took to wife  
O that I never had—fond wish too late!—  
Was in the vale of Sorec, Dalila,  
That specious monster, my accomplished snare. 230  
I thought it lawful from my former act,  
And the same end; still watching to oppress  
Israel's oppressors. Of what now I suffer  
She was not the prime cause, but I myself,  
Who, vanquished with a peal of words—O weakness!—  
Gave up my fort of silence to a woman.

## CHORUS.

In seeking just occasion to provoke  
The Philistine, thy country's enemy,



## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

Τιμνῆτις ἦν μὲν, ἥς τὸ πρῶτον ἡράμην.  
 ἡ δ' οὐκ ἔμελλε τοῖς ἐμοῖσιν ἀνδάνειν  
 τοκεῦσιν, ὥς ἄσεπτος, ἀγνοοῦσι δὴ  
 ἐν τοῖσδε μοιρόκραντον ἐκ Θεοῦ νόμον. 230  
 τὸ δ' αὐτὸς εἰδὼς, τῶν γάμων ἀντειχόμεν.  
 ὀρμαῖς φρενῶν γὰρ ἐμφύτοις πέποιθ' αἰεὶ,  
 καὶ τοῖς πολίταις ταῦτα τῆς σωτηρίας  
 προοίμ' εἶναι, θεόθεν ἔργον ἀμφέπων·  
 ἐψευσμένος δὲ τῆσδε, δευτέροις γάμοις  
 τὴν ἐκ Σόρηκος, Δηλῆλιν, προσηγόμην,  
 τὴν εὐπρόσωπον, θρέμμα μοι δολοπλόκον·  
 ὥς ὄφελον δὲ καίριος γινῶναι τόδε·  
 ἔδοξα δ' ὀρθῶς ἀνανεώσασθαι τὰ πρὶν  
 πραχθέντ'· αἰεὶ γὰρ τοῦδ' ἐπειρώμην, ὅπως 240  
 τοὺς ἡμῖν ἐχθροὺς ἀντιδρᾶν ἔχοιμί τι.  
 οὐχ ἡ γυνή μοι τῶν κακῶν παναίτια,  
 αὐτὸς δ' ἐμαντῶ, βοῦν ἀπὸ γλώσσης βαλῶν.  
 θήλεια κραυγὴ κατεπάλαισέ μ' ἐκνόμως.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὥς αἰὲν ἐχθρὸς τῆς πάτρας ἐχθροῖς γεγῶς,

Thou never wast remiss, I bear thee witness;  
Yet Israël still serves with all his sons.

240

## SAMSON.

That fault I take not on me, but transfer  
On Israel's governors, and heads of tribes;  
Who, seeing those great acts which God had done  
Singly by me against their conquerors,  
Acknowledged not, or not at all considered,  
Deliverance offered. I, on the other side,  
Used no ambition to commend my deeds;  
The deeds themselves, though mute, spoke loud the doer.  
But they persisted deaf, and would not seem  
To count them things worth notice; till at length 250  
Their lords the Philistines, with gathered powers,  
Entered Judea seeking me, who then  
Safe to the rock of Etham was retired;  
Not flying, but forecasting in what place  
To set upon them, what advantaged best.  
Meanwhile the men of Judah, to prevent  
The harass of their land, beset me round,  
I willingly, on some conditions, came  
Into their hands, and they as gladly yielded me  
To the uncircumcised a welcome prey, 260  
Bound with two cords; but cords to me were threads

λαχών γε καιροῦ, κάμ' ἔχεις ξυμμάρτυρα·  
πάντες δὲ διατελοῦμεν ἐν δεσμοῖς ἔτι.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.


τῇνδ' οὐ ξύνοιδα τὴν βλάβην εἰργασμένος,  
αὐτοὶ δὲ φύλαρχοί τε καὶ δήμου πρόμοι,  
οἱ καὶ μαθόντες τοῦ Θεοῦ ῥώμῃ σθένων 250  
αὐτουργὸς οἱ' ἔδρασα τοὺς ἐχθροὺς πάλαι,  
δώρων ἀπηρνήσαντο μὴ δοῦναι χάριν·  
ἐμοὶ δὲ τὰμά γ' οὐχὶ κηρύσσειν ἔδει  
ἔργ', αὐτὰ δ' ἦν μοι μαρτύρων ἀντάξια·  
οἱ δ', ὡς ἐμοῦ συγώντος, ἡμέλουν αἰεὶ  
τέλος δ' ἀθροισθεῖς ἡ Φιλιστίνων βία  
δεινῷ διαγμῷ τὴν πάτραν εἰσέρχεται·  
ἐγὼ πέτρα πάρ' Ἡθάμης ἐν ἀσφαλεῖ,  
οὐ δραπέτης ἦ, πολλὰ δ' ἐνθυμούμενος 260  
πῶς ἂν δυναίμην πρὸς τὸ δεξιώτατον  
ἐχθροῖς ἐπελθεῖν· ἐν δὲ τῷδε περιβαλεῖν  
τοῖς ξυννόμοις με, γῆς ἀπειργαθεῖν φθορὰν,  
ἔδοξ'· ἐπὶ ῥητοῖσι δ' οὐκ ἄκων παρῇ·  
αὐτοὶ δὲ βαρβάρουσιν, ἀσπαστὸν γέρας,  
ἔδοσάν με δισσῶν δεδεμένον σπαρτῶν πλοκαῖς·



Touched with the flame. On their whole host I flew,  
Unarmed, and with a trivial weapon  
Their choicest youth; they only lived who fled.  
Had Judah that day joined, or one whole tribe,  
They had by this possessed the towers of Gath,  
And lorded over them whom now they serve.  
But what more oft, in nations grown corrupt,  
And by their vices brought to servitude,  
Than to love bondage more than liberty? 270  
Bondage with ease than strenuous liberty;  
And to despise, or envy, or suspect  
Whom God hath of his special favour raised  
As their deliverer? if he aught begin  
How frequent to desert him, and at last  
To heap ingratitude on worthiest deeds!

## CHORUS.

Thy words to my remembrance bring  
How Succoth and the fort of Penuël  
Their great deliverer contemned  
The matchless Gideon, in pursuit 280  
Of Madian and her vanquished kings;  
And how ingratel Ephraim  
Had dealt with Jephtha—who by argument.



τὰ δ' ἡμικαύτοις ἦν ἔμουγ' ἀντίρροπα  
 λίνοις, ἐπεσσύθην τε καὶ γυμνὸς στρατῶ,  
 κᾶκτεινα, φλαύρου ξιφιδίου δεδραγμένος,  
 ἡβῶσαν ἀκμὴν τῆς πόλεως, μόνον δέ τις  
 270 φυγῶν ἐσώθη· τῶν δ' Ἰουδαίων τότε  
 ξυνεσβαλόντων, εἴτε καὶ φυλῆς μιᾶς,  
 ἐκτησάμεσθ' ἂν οὓς ἔχει πύργους Γάθη,  
 τούτων κρατοῦντες οἷσι νῦν δουλεύομεν.  
 ἀλλ' οἷς πρόσω βέβηκε τοῦ δήμου φθορὰ,  
 αὐτοί γ' ἑαυτοῖς δουλίαν ἐπεισφέρειν,  
 θῆσσαν δοκοῦσι πολλάκις ῥαθυμίαν  
 στεῖρρόν προτιμᾶν τῶν ἐλευθέρων πόνον·  
 Θεοῦ δ' ἄριστα δῶρα, τοὺς ἀμύντορας,  
 φθονεῖν ὑποπτεύοντες, ἡ καταφρονεῖν.  
 280 ἀνθ' ὧν γὰρ εὖ δέδρακε τοιοῦτος, θαμὰ  
 μόνωσιν ἀντίληχε κἀχαριστίαν.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ταῦτα σοῦ κλύων Πενύελον Σούκοτον τ' ἐμνησάμην,  
 ὡς ἔθεντ' ἀτημέλητον Γήδεον τὸν παμμέγαν,  
 Μαδίων αὐτοῖς ἄναξι πρὸς φυγὴν τετραμμένων·  
 Ἡφραημίται δ' Ἰέπτην, ὧν ἔρεξ' ἀμνήμονες.

Not worse than by his shield and spear,  
Defended Israel from the Ammonite—  
Had not his prowess quelled their pride  
In that sore battle, when so many died,  
Without reprieve adjudged to death,  
For want of well pronouncing Shibboleth.

## SAMSON.

Of such examples add me to the roll. 290  
Me easily indeed mine may neglect,  
But God's proposed deliverance not so.

## CHORUS.

Just are the ways of God,  
And justifiable to men ;  
Unless there be who think not God at all.  
If any be, they walk obscure ;  
For of such doctrine never was there school,  
But the heart of the fool,  
And no man therein doctor but himself.  
Yet more there be who doubt his ways not just, 300  
As to his own edicts found contradicting ;  
Then give the reins to wandering thought,

Ἄμμονῆτας εἴτ' ἐλέγξας εἴτε νικήσας δορὶ,  
κακὰ ποιεῖν ἔμελλον· οἱ δὲ τοῦμπαλιν δεδμημένοι  
ἀθρόοις κλόνοις ἀφύκτον τ' ἔθανον ἐν στάσει δορὸς,  
Σιββόλητον ἀποτυχόντες ὥστε μὴ σκεθρῶς φράσαι.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

κάμῃ δὴ τούτοισι πρόσθε, τοῖς μὲν οἰκείρις ξένον, 290  
τῆς δὲ τοῦ Θεοῦ προνομίας οὐποτε σφαλῆσομαι.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τὰ Δαίμονος θέσφατ' αἰὲν  
ἔνδικ' ἦν, τοῦτ' ἔστι καὶ γινῶναι βροτοῖς,  
πλὴν εἴ τις ἦν τὸ θείον ἐς τὸ πᾶν ἀρ-  
-νούμενος μὴδὲ γενέσθαι.  
τῷ δὲ κατεσβήκασιν οἱ φρενῶν ὄφ-  
-θαλμοὶ, διάγειν τυφλόν·  
τὰ δ' οὐκ ἐδιδάξατ' οὐ-  
-δεῖς, μὴ οὐ καθ' αὐτὸν αὐτοδίδακτος φρενόπληκτός τ' ὦν,  
κού ξυμμέτοχον λάβε τᾶσδε παιδείας. 300  
πλείους δ' ἔτλησαν παρανόμων  
Δαίμον' ὦν ἔδρασεν, ὥς αὐτοῦ παρὲκ  
θεσμούς, γράφεσθαι, νοῖν ἀδέσποτον πλατ-  
-νώμενοι, ἐλασσωθέντες

Regardless of his glory's diminution ;  
Till, by their own perplexities involved,  
They ravel more, still less resolved,  
But never find self-satisfying solution.

As if they would confine the Interminable,  
And tie him to his own prescript,  
Who made our laws to bind us, not himself,  
And hath full right to exempt  
Whom so it pleases him by choice  
From national obstruction, without taint  
Of sin or legal debt ;  
For with his own laws he can best dispense.

310

He would not else, who never wanted means,  
Nor in respect of the enemy just cause  
To set his people free,  
Have prompted this heroic Nazarite,  
Against his vow of strictest purity,  
To seek in marriage that fallacious bride,  
Unclean, unchaste.

320

Θεοῦ ἀμνήμονες· ἐν δὲ τῷ τελευτᾷ

ἀμηχανίας περι-

-πλοκαῖς ἀπόροισιν αὐ-

-τοὶ δεινὸν ἐμπεπλεγμένῳ, εἰσαεὶ αὐταρκείας

ἀπέτυχον· ἀργὸς κατέχει νιν ἀσάφεια,

σχολῇ τὸν ἀπείρου' αὐτὸν

310

αὐτὸς οἷς ἐψήφισεν

εἵρξοντας, ὃς οὐ καθ' αὐτοῦ

θέσμ' ἔθηκε τοῖς βροτοῖς·

παρὸν τὸν ἀεὶ δοκοῦνθ' οἷ,

ὥς ἄγος λύνει τῷ,

ἐλευθεροῦν ποθ', οἷς πέφυκε, δεσμῶν.

πῶς, ὅς γ' ἐκύρωσ', αὐτὸς οὐ

κᾶριστ' ἀναιρεῖν ἂν δύναιτο ταῦτά;

πρόχειρον ὃν τῷ Θεῷ

θέλουντι, πρὸς τ' ἐχθρῶν δίκαιον,

320

τὴν πόλιν σώζειν, ὅμως τὸν γεννάδαν

ὑποσχόμενόν περ

βίον ἀγνότατον διαζῆν,

ἀνοσίων δόλφ' γάμων

ᾧτρυν' ἀγάμων μιγῆναι.

πρὸς ταῦτα ματαιόκομπα

Down reason then, at least vain reasonings down,  
Though reason here aver  
That moral verdict quits her of unclean :  
Unchaste was subsequent, her stain not his.

But see ! here comes thy reverend sire  
With careful step, locks white as down,  
Old Manoah. Advise  
Forthwith, how thou oughtest to receive him.

## SAMSON.

Ay me ! another inward grief, awaked 330  
With mention of that name, renews the assault.

## MANOAH.

Brethren and men of Dan—for such ye seem,  
Though in this uncouth place—if old respect,  
As I suppose, toward your once-gloried friend,  
My son, now captive, hither hath informed

χαιρέτω σοφίσματα,  
 μή νυν ἂ λογισμὸς ὀρθῶς  
 τῶνδ' ὕπερ καθίσταται·  
 τὸ γοῦν ἐπικικῆς, ἐξά-  
 -γιστος ἦδ' ἐν τῷ γαμείν  
 οὐχ, ὕστερον δ', ὧν οὐ μετεῖχεν ἀνὴρ.  
 ἀλλ', εἰσορῶ γὰρ τὸν γεραι-  
 -ὸν, δεῦρο προστείχοντα, σεμνότεμον,  
 λευκότεριχ' ἤδη, σὲ τὸν  
 φύσαντα, Μάνων, ἀσφάλειαν  
 εὖ ποδῶν τηροῦντα, νῦν τοῦτον φρόνει  
 πῶς δεῖ σε δέχεσθαι.

330

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

φεῦ τῇσδε φωνῆς· ὥς διανταῖαν τάλας  
 πληγὴν πέπληγμαι, δευτέραν οὐτασμένος.

340

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

φίλοι Δάνητες, οἶα γοῦν δοκεῖν ἐμοὶ,  
 καίπερ δυσαύλω ξυντυχόντες ἐν τόπῳ,  
 εἰ τοῦ πρὶν οὐνεχ', ὥς ἐπικάσαι, κλέους,  
 ὃ θητικῆς ἤμειψεν αἰκίας τὰ νῦν,  
 ἐμοῦ γεραιὰν ὕστερήσαντος βάσιν,



Your younger feet, while mine cast back with age  
Came lagging after—say if he be here.

## CHORUS.

As signal now in low dejected state,  
As erst in highest, behold him where he lies.

## MANOAH.

O miserable change! Is this the man? 340  
That invincible Samson, far renowned,  
The dread of Israel's foes, who with a strength  
Equivalent to Angels' walked their streets,  
None offering fight; who single combatant  
Duelled their armies ranked in proud array,  
Himself an army, now unequal match  
To save himself against a coward armed  
At one spear's length. O ever-failing trust  
In mortal strength! and O, what not in man  
Deceivable and vain? Nay, what thing good 350  
Prayed for, but often proves our woe, our bane?  
I prayed for children, and thought barrenness  
In wedlock a reproach; I gained a son,  
And such a son as all men hailed me happy.

δεῦρ' ἤλθεθ' ἀδρῶν ἐν ποδωκείᾳ μελῶν,  
τὸν υἱὸν εἴπατ' εἰ πάρεστιν ἐνθάδε,

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οἶος μὲν ἦν, θαυμαστός, ἐν τύχῃς ἀκμῇ,  
τοιῖσδε τῇ νῦν ἐστ' ἰδεῖν κακουχίᾳ,

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

φεῦ τῆς ἐλεινῆς τοῦδ', ἀνικήτη τοῖ πρὶν, 350  
φθορᾶς· ὅδ' οὖν ὁ περιβόητος, ὃν πάλοι  
ἐχθροὶ παρ' αὐτοῖς περιπολοῦντα πανταχοῦ  
ὑπεξέφεινον ὡς θεοῖς ἰσάρροπον;  
σμερδνῶ μόνος δ' ἀντεῖχεν ἐντάκτῳ στρατῷ,  
ἀντὶ στρατοῦ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἦν· τοῦτον δὲ νῦν  
καὶ δειλὸς ἐλθὼν ἐν διαστάσει δρορὸς  
κατεργάσασαίτ' ἄν· οὐ γὰρ ἀνθρώπων σθένει  
οὐδεὶς πεποισθῶς ἔκετο σκοπὸν ποτε·  
πάντῃ γὰρ ἐστὶ δολοπλόκου ψεύδους πλέα 360  
βρότεια πράγματ'· ἔρχεται συχρὸν κακὰ  
αὐτῶν μάτην ὃν ἠϋξάμεσθ' ἐπηβόλοις.  
ἐγὼ μὲν ἤτουν τὸν Θεὸν παίδων σποράν,  
ἀτεκνίαν γὰρ ὡς ὄνειδος φόμην·  
τυχῶν δ', ἔδοξα πᾶσιν ὀλβιώτατος·

Who would be now a father in my stead?  
Oh, wherefore did God grant me my request,  
And as a blessing with such pomp adorned?  
Why are his gifts desirable, to tempt  
Our earnest prayers, then, given with solemn hand  
As graces, draw a scorpion's tail behind? 360  
For this did the Angel twice descend? for this  
Ordained thy nurture holy? as of a plant  
Select and sacred, glorious for a while,  
The miracle of men; then in an hour  
Ensnared, assaulted, overcome, led bound,  
Thy foes' derision, captive, poor, and blind,  
Into a dungeon thrust, to work with slaves.  
Alas! methinks whom God hath chosen once  
To worthiest deeds, if he through frailty err,  
He should not so o'erwhelm, and as a thrall 370  
Subject him to so foul indignities;  
Be it but for honour's sake of former deeds.

## SAMSON.

**Appoint** not heavenly disposition, father.  
**Nothing** of all these evils hath befallen me

νῦν τοῦδε τάνδρὸς τήνδε τὴν παιδουργίαν  
 ἐκὼν τίς ἂν ποτ' ἀντιδέξασθαι θέλοι;  
 ὥς ὥφελον δὲ μήποτ' ἐκ Θεοῦ τόδε  
 δώροις ἀγαστὸν ἀφθόνοις εἰληφέναι·  
 σπουδῇ μὲν ὥπασ', ὦν ἐνὴκ' ὄξυν πόθον·  
 λαβόντα δ', οἷα σκορπίου κέντρον, δάκνει· 370  
 τοῦδ' οὐνεκ' ἠξιώσαθ' ἄγγελος Θεοῦ  
 καὶ δις κατελθεῖν, ἐκκρίτοις θ' οἷον φυτοῖς  
 ἔβη καθιέρωσε σοὶ τὰ παιδικὰ,  
 ὅθεν τέθηλας ἡμῖν εἰς βραχὺν χρόνον  
 θαυμαστὸς ἀνδρῶν· εἶτα καὶν βαιᾷ ῥοπῇ  
 δόλοισιν αἰχμάλωτον, ἐχθροῖσιν γέλων  
 οἱ κατεπάλαισαν σ', ὄμματ' ἐστερημένον  
 δοῦλόν τε, πάντων τ' ἀπορία, θητῶν μέτα  
 πόνοις ταλαιπωροῦντα, τοιοῦτόν σ' ὀρῶ.  
 ἀλλ' ὅν γ' ἐπ' ἄκροις ἐξέλεξ' ἔργοις Θεός, 380  
 εἰ καὶ βρότειον ἔπαθεν, αἰκία τόση  
 πρόρριζον οὐκ ἔδει νιν αἰσχίστη πεσεῖν,  
 κλέους γ' ἕκατι τῶν πάρος πεπραγμένων.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μὴ τὰκ Θεοῦ τυχόντα μέμψασθαι, πάτερ.  
 οὐκ ἐστὶν οὐδὲν ταισιδ' ἐν δύναις ἐμοὶ

But justly ; I myself have brought them on,  
Sole author I, sole cause. If aught seem vile,  
As vile hath been my folly, who have profaned  
The mystery of God, given me under pledge  
Of vow, and have betrayed it to a woman,  
A Canaanite, my faithless enemy.

380

This well I knew, nor was at all surprised,  
But warned by oft experience. Did not she  
Of Timna first betray me ? and reveal  
The secret wrested from me in her highth  
Of nuptial love professed, carrying it straight  
To them who had corrupted her, my spies  
And rivals ? In this other was there found  
More faith, who also in her prime of love,  
Spousal embraces, vitiated with gold,  
Though offered only, by the scent conceived  
Her spurious first-born, treason against me ?  
Thrice she assayed, with flattering prayers and sighs  
And amorous reproaches, to win from me

390

ὃ μὴ κακουργῶν μόνος ἐμνηχανησάμην,  
 αὐτόσσυτον πῆμ', ἐνδίκῃ παθήματι.  
 τί δ' αἰσχρὸν, εἰ μὴ τοῦκ Θεοῦ δοθὲν σθένος  
 ἐφ' ὅτε κρυπτὸν ἀσφαλῶς σώζειν αἰέ,  
 ῥίψαι διαφθείραντ', ἀβελτέρῳ φρενί; 390  
 παρ' οὐ προδόντος ἔμαθε βάρβαρος γυνή,  
 ἐχθροξενὸν μοι κάπατήλιον κάρα.  
 οὐδ' ἦν ἀπροσδόκητα, προὔσήμεινε γὰρ  
 τὰ πολλὰ πρὶν πραχθέντα· τοιοῦτον πάλαι  
 ἔτλη τὸ Τίμνης θρέμμα, πρῶταρχος δόλων.  
 ἦ γὰρ τὰ κρυπτὰ παρατεθέντ', ἔρωτ' ἐπεὶ  
 ἐψεύσατ' αἰνόλεκτρος, ἐν σμικρῷ χρόνῳ  
 τοῖς ἀνταγωνισταῖς τε καὶ σκοποῖς ἐμοῦ,  
 αὐτὴν παρεκτρέψασιν, ἀρπάσασά μου  
 μετέδωκεν· οὐδ' ἄμεμπτος ἡτέρα δοκεῖ, 400  
 ἦ καὶ ἀπαρχαῖς εὐφιλῶν νυμφευμάτων  
 πρωτόσπορόν τι κῦμα, δυσγενὲς τέκος,  
 αὔρας πνοαῖσι παρανόμως ἐγείνατο,  
 φενακίσασά μ'· ἀργυρώνητος μάτην,  
 δῶρον προτεινάντων γὰρ οὐκ ἐδέξατο.  
 τρίς μου, λιταῖς σαίνουσα καὶ πολλῶ στόνῳ  
 πλάσασ' ἔρωτα, τὸν μάλ' ἄρρητον λόγον·

My capital secret, in what part my strength  
Lay stored, in what part summed, that she might know ;  
Thrice I deluded her, and turned to sport  
Her importunity, each time perceiving  
How openly, and with what impudence,  
She purposed to betray me, and—which was worse  
Than undissembled hate—with what contempt 400  
She sought to make me traitor to myself.  
Yet the fourth time, when, mustering all her wiles,  
With blandished parlies, feminine assaults,  
Tongue-batteries, she surceased not day nor night  
To storm me over-watched, and wearied out,  
At times when men seek most repose and rest,  
I yielded, and unlocked her all my heart,  
Who, with a grain of manhood well resolved,  
Might easily have shook off all her snares ;  
But foul effeminacy held me yoked 410  
Her bond-slave. O indignity ! O blot  
To honour and religion ! servile mind  
Rewarded well with servile punishment !  
The base degree to which I now am fallen,  
These rags, this grinding is not yet so base,

ὅπου τὸ θησαυρισθὲν ἐνναίοι σθένος,  
 ὑπέξέκλεπτεν· ἀντιμηχανωμένου δ'  
 ἐμοῦ, τρίς ὕβριν τοῦ μ' ἐνοχλοῦντος τρόπου 410  
 ἀπηύρατ', ὡς καὶ δηλὸς ἦν ἐκάστοτε  
 τόνδ' ἄνδρ' ἐνεδρεύουσ', ἀναίσχυντον στόμα·  
 καὶ πρὸς, σφαλῆναι τοῖς ἐμοῖς αὐτὸν λόγοις  
 παρήγέ με σκώπτουσα· τοιαύτης ἐγὼ  
 προειλόμην ἂν ἥτις ἐκ προὔπτου στυγοῖ.  
 τέλος δ', ἐπεὶ στόμαργος ἤθροισεν δόλους,  
 γυναικοβούλων τ' ἐμβολαῖς προσφθεγμάτων  
 ἐπέκειτο πάννυχός τε καὶ πανήμερος  
 ἤδη καμόντι καὶ κατ' ἄνθρωπον πόνων  
 ἄμπαυλαν ἀμφέποντι καὶ λήθην κακῶν 420  
 εἶξας ἔδειξα τὰν φρεσὶν κεκρυμμένα.  
 ἀλλ' εἴ γε καὶ πολλοστὸν ἀνδρείας παρήν,  
 ἔμοιγ' ἀμοχθὶ καταγέλαστος ὥχετ' ἄν.  
 ἀνθ' ὧν αἰετὲς ἤνεσ', οἷα θηλύρους,  
 ζυγὸν γυναικὺς, οὐδ' ἔτ' ἐκφεύγειν ἐνὴν,  
 Θεοῦ τ' ὄνειδος, τοῦ τ' ἐν ἀνθρώποις κλέους.  
 φρονῶν τὰ δούλων, δουλίαν ἐκτησάμην.  
 προὔχει δὲ τῆς νῦν ἢ πάροιθεν αἰσχροτύτης,  
 εἰ καὶ ῥακῶδες εἶμα καὶ στεργρόν πόνον



As was my former servitude, ignoble,  
Unmanly, ignominious, infamous,  
True slavery, and that blindness worse than this,  
That saw not how degenerately I served.

## MANOAH.

I cannot praise thy marriage choices, son, 420  
Rather approved them not; but thou didst plead  
Divine impulsion prompting how thou mightest  
Find some occasion to infest our foes.  
I state not that; this I am sure, our foes  
Found soon occasion thereby to make thee  
Their captive, and their triumph; thou the sooner  
Temptation foundest, or over-potent charms,  
To violate the sacred trust of silence  
Deposited within thee; which to have kept  
Tacit, was in thy power: true; and thou bearest 430  
Enough, and more, the burden of that fault;  
Bitterly hast thou paid, and still art paying,  
That rigid score; a worse thing yet remains.  
This day the Philistines a popular feast  
Here celebrate in Gaza; and proclaim  
Great pomp, and sacrifice, and praises loud,  
To Dagon, as their god, who hath delivered

εἵληχ'· ἐπεὶ βάνανσον, οὐδ' ἐν ἀνδράσι 430  
 πρέποντα, δυσκλεῦ τε, τὸν τὸ πρὶν χρόνον  
 σαφῶς ξύνοιδ' ἄτιμος ἐκτρίψας βίον,  
 καὶ σφόδρα δοῦλος καὶ πλέον τοῦ νῦν τυφλός·  
 γένος γὰρ ἡτίμαζον, οὐδ' ἔγνω τόδε.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ὦ τέκνον, οὐδ' ἔμοιγ' ἐπαινετὸς δοκεῖ,  
 μᾶλλον δ' ἀηδής, σὼν γάμων προαίρεσις·  
 σὺ δ', ὡς ἐπ' ἐχθροὺς θεόθεν, εἰ τλαίης τάδε,  
 σχήσων ἀφορμὴν, πρόφασιν ἐσκήψω λέχη·  
 ἀλλ' οὐ, τόδ' εἰπὼν, ἔμ' ἂν ἔχοις ξυμμάρτυρα.  
 τοσοῦτον οἶδα· καίρι' ἦν αὐτοῖς τάδε, 440  
 σοί γ' αἰχμαλώτῳ γαυριᾶν· αὐτὸν δέ σε  
 καὶ θᾶσσον ἐκ τῶν δυσγάμων ὁμιλιῶν,  
 ὑπερβιασθέντ' εὐθέτοις μαγεύμασι  
 συγὴν προδοῦναι, σοὶ Θεοῦ πιστὸν γέρας,  
 ἐξὸν φυλάσσειν· οἱ δὲ τῇσδ' ἀμαρτίας  
 πικρὸν μάλ' ἐκπράσσουσί σ' ἐς τὰ νῦν χρέος,  
 πλέον γε τοῦ δέοντος· αἰσχίω δ' ἔτι  
 παραντίκ' ἔσται, τῶν Φιλιστίνων ἵπο  
 κοινὴν ἑορτὴν ἐν πόλει ποιουμένων.  
 τῷ γὰρ Δάγωνι, τῇσδε τῆς χώρας θεῷ, 450

Thee, Samson, bound and blind into their hands,  
Them out of thine, who slewest them many a slain.  
So Dagon shall be magnified, and God, 440  
Beside whom is no god, compared with idols,  
Disglorified, blasphemed, and had in scorn,  
By the idolatrous rout amidst their wine;  
Which to have come to pass by means of thee,  
Samson, of all thy sufferings think the heaviest,  
Of all reproach the most with shame that ever  
Could have befallen thee and thy father's house.

## SAMSON,

Father, I do acknowledge and confess  
That I this honour, I this pomp have brought  
To Dagon, and advanced his praises high 450  
Among the Heathen round; to God have brought  
Dishonour, obloquy, and oped the mouths  
Of idolists and atheists; have brought scandal  
To Israel, diffidence of God, and doubt  
In feeble hearts, propense enough before  
To waver, or fall off and join with idols;  
Which is my chief affliction, shame and sorrow,  
The anguish of my soul, that suffers not

σεμνῷ θηηπολοῦντες ὕμνοῦσιν χορῶ,  
 ἐπεὶ σὲ, τὸν Σάμψωνα, τὸν πολυκτόνον,  
 τυφλὸν τε δέσμιόν τε τῶν ἐχθρῶν λόχοις  
 ἐγχειρίσας ἔδωκε, κᾶσωσεν πόλιν.  
 ὄνομα μὲν οὖν Δάγωνος ἐξαρθήσεται·  
 Θεοῦ δ' ἀκοινώνητον αἰσχυνεῖ σέβας,  
 ταῖς χειροκμήτοις παραβαλὼν νιν εἰκόσιν,  
 οἰνοπλάνητος συρφετὸς θεοστυγῆς.  
 σὺ δ' αὖ τοσούτων αἴτιος γεγῶς κακῶν,  
 σαυτὸν μέγιστον ἴσθι πῆμ' εἰργασμένος 460  
 ἡμᾶς τ' ὄνειδος, ὧν ποτ' ἂν τυχεῖν παρῇν.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

πάτερ, ξυνήγορόν με τοῖς λόγοις ἔχεις,  
 αὐτὸν πορόντα τῷ Δάγωνι τιμίαν  
 δόξαν παρ' ἀστοῖς, ἔν τε γέλτοσιν κλέος·  
 ἐμοῦ δ' ἑκατι λοιδορούμενοι Θεῷ,  
 αὐτοὶ ματαίων ψευδοκήρυκες θεῶν,  
 γελῶσι· πρὸς δὲ τοῖσδε παγκακῶς κλύειν  
 καὶ τοὺς πολίτας, ὥστε διαβαλεῖν Θεὸν  
 τοὺς καὶ πάροιθε δειλίᾳ δεδμημένους,  
 ἀντ' εὐσεβοῦντων δυσσεβοῦντας· οἷς ἐγὼ 470  
 αἰσχύνομαι μάλιστα, κἀποδύρομαι,

Mine eye to harbour sleep, or thoughts to rest.  
This only hope relieves me, that the strife 460  
With me hath end; all the contest is now  
'Twixt God and Dagon. Dagon hath presumed,  
Me overthrown, to enter lists with God,  
His deity comparing and preferring  
Before the God of Abraham: He, be sure,  
Will not connive or linger, thus provoked,  
But will arise, and his great name assert.  
Dagon must stoop, and shall ere long receive  
Such a discomfit, as shall quite despoil him  
Of all these boasted trophies won on me, 470  
And with confusion blank his worshippers.

## MANOAH.

With cause this hope relieves thee, and these words  
I as a prophecy receive, for God—  
Nothing more certain—will not long defer  
To vindicate the glory of his name  
Against all competition, nor will long  
Endure it doubtful whether God be Lord,  
Or Dagon. But for thee what shall be done?

νύκτωρ αὐπνος, φρενομανῆς καθ' ἡμέραν.  
 οὐδ' ἐστὶν εἰ μὴ τοῦτο θέλγητρον κακῶν,  
 ἔμ' ἐξαμιλληθέντα τῆς μάχης, μόνουιν  
 Θεῷ τε καὶ Δάγωνι παραδεδωκέναι.  
 τῷ Πατρίῳ γὰρ ἀνταγωνίστην Θεῷ  
 τλᾶς οὗτος, ὡς ἔμουγε κειμένου σαφῶς,  
 αὐτὸν παρασχεῖν, θειότητος ἐξόχων  
 ὠρέξατ' ἄθλων· τοῦτο δ' ἔμπεδον λέγω,  
 τὸν Δαίμον' οὔτε χρόνιον οὔτ' ὥρας ἄτερ 480  
 δείξειν ἀναστάνθ' οἷος ὑβρίσθη Θεός·  
 κείνῳ δ' ὑπεικτέον τε, χῶν ἀφήρπασε  
 πάντων τροπαίων γάνος ἀφαιρεθήσεται·  
 φόβον δ' ἀμείψουσ' οἳ νιν ὕμνησαν τὸ πρίν.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἀληθόμαντιν ἐλπίδ', ἥ σ' ἐκούφισεν,  
 ὦ παῖ, δέδεγμαι, διὰ τάχους πεπεισμένος  
 ἴδιον σέβας τηροῦντι καὶ κράτος Θεῷ,  
 ὅστις ποτ' ἂν νῦν ἀνθαμιλλᾶσθαι θέλῃ·  
 οὐδ' ἀμφιλέκτους, ὧν Δάγων ἀνθάπτεται,  
 θρόνους ἐάσει· σοῦ δ' ὕπερ τί δεῖ ποιεῖν 490  
 ἐν τῷ μεταξὺ τῶνδ', ἃ προὔγνωκας, χρόνῳ;

Thou must not in the mean while, here forgot,  
Lie in this miserable loathsome plight, 480  
Neglected. I already have made way  
To some Philistian lords, with whom to treat  
About thy ransom: well they may by this  
Have satisfied their utmost of revenge,  
By pains and slaveries, worse than death, inflicted  
On thee, who now no more canst do them harm.

## SAMSON.

Spare that proposal, father, spare the trouble  
Of that solicitation: let me here,  
As I deserve, pay on my punishment;  
And expiate, if possible, my crime, 490  
Shameful garrulity. To have revealed  
Secrets of men, the secrets of a friend,  
How heinous had the fact been, how deserving  
Contempt and scorn of all, to be excluded  
All friendship, and avoided as a blab,  
The mark of fool set on his front! But I  
God's counsel have not kept, his holy secret  
Presumptuously have published, impiously,  
Weakly at least and shamefully—a sin

οὐ γὰρ θέμις, λαθόντα καὶ φίλων ἄτερ,  
 κεῖσθαι πινώδους ἐν δύαις ἀλγηδόνας.  
 πρὸς ταῦτ' ἔγωγε τῶν Φιλιστίνων τισὶν  
 ἤδη ξυνήλθον, τῶν λύτρων τῶν σῶν πέρι  
 σπονδὰς προτείνων· καὶ γὰρ οὖν αὐτοὺς πάλαι  
 δεῖ τῶν ἀπλήστων σῶν κορεσθῆναι κἀκῶν,  
 τοῦ μηκέτ' ἀνθέξοντος, ἐν δεσμῶν πέδαις,  
 ἐχθρῶν ἐφορμαῖς.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μὴ σύ γ' ἐν τούτοις, πάτερ,  
 κάμης· ἀχρεῶν δεῖ σ' ἀποσχέσθαι λιτῶν, 500  
 ἐμοῦγε τὸν δίκαιον ἀντλοῦντος πόνον,  
 ἀσχήμονός μοι ζημίαν γλωσσαλγίας.  
 καὶ γὰρ φίλου ποτ' ἀνδρὸς ἄτλητον δοκεῖ  
 λόγους προδοῦναι τοὺς παρηγγυημένους,  
 τῶν δ' οὐνεκ' ἐκπίπτει τε καὶ πάντων ὕπο  
 ἀπαξιούται μὴ οὐχ ἑταιρείας τυχεῖν  
 ὁ ταῦτα δράσας, μωρίαν ἐστιγμένους,  
 καὶ φευκτὸς, ἀθυρόγλωσσος ὥς, ἐν ἀνδράσι·  
 Θεοῦ δ' ἐγὼ βούλευμα κἀρῖητον γέρας  
 ἔρριψ' ἀναιδής, ἄθεος, εἰ δὲ μὴ, φρενῶν 510  
 ἐν ἀσθενείᾳ, καταγέλαστος ἐν πόλει.



That Gentiles in their parables condemn 500  
To their abyss and horrid pains confined.

## MANOAH.

Be penitent, and for thy fault contrite,  
But act not in thy own affliction, son.  
Repent the sin, but if the punishment  
Thou canst avoid, self-preservation bids;  
Or the execution leave to high disposal,  
And let another hand, not thine, exact  
Thy penal forfeit from thyself. Perhaps  
God will relent, and quit thee all his debt;  
Who ever more approves and more accepts 510  
(Best pleased with humble and filial submission)  
Him who, imploring mercy, sues for life,  
Than who, self-rigorous, chooses death as due;  
Which argues over-just, and self-displeased  
For self-offence, more than for God offended.  
Reject not then what offered means. Who knows  
But God hath set before us to return thee  
Home to thy country and his sacred house,

καὶ βάρβαροι δὲ νερτέροισιν ἐν βύθοις  
πέδας τε πολυδάκρυτά τ' ἀθλῆσαι πάθη  
τοιούσδ' ἔκριναν, μυθοποιούντες καλῶς.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

κλαίειν πρέπει γὰρ οἷσιν ἡμαρτες, τέκνον,  
ἀλλ' οὐ τὰ σαυτοῦ πῆματ' αὐτὸν ἐκτελεῖν·  
ταῦτα στενάζειν ἔστι, τὴν δ' ὑπισθόπουν  
δίκην ἀλύξας, σαυτὸν ἂν σώζοις· καλῶς·  
ἢ τῷ μέδοντι τήνδε τὴν ποινήν ἔα,  
μηδ' αὐτόχειρ, δράσας περ, ἐν μέρει πάθης. 520  
τί δῆθ' ; ὁ Δαίμων πᾶν τόδ' ἂν χρέος πρόφρων  
τάχ' ἂν μεθείη, κάρτ' ἐν εὐνοίᾳ τρέφων  
νοῦν τὸν ταπεινὸν, οἷος ἐν παισὶν πρέπει·  
οὐδ' ἂν προείλεθ' ὃς δίκην αὐτοκτόνος  
ὑπερθορῶν ἀπέθανε, τόνδε δ' ὃς Θεὸν  
τὸ ζῆν παραιτησάμενος ἀπέλαβεν λιταῖς.  
κεῖνος γὰρ αὐτοῦ μᾶλλον ἢ Θεοῦ βλάβας  
ἔτισεν αὐτόκλητος· ἄσμενος μὲν οὖν  
δέχου τὰ σοὶ προκείμεν', ὥς ἡμῖν ἴσως  
Θεοῦ τόδ' ἐπιτρέψαντος, εἰς πόλιν σὲ σὴν 530  
ἄγειν κατελθόνθ', ἱερὸν εἰς ναοῦ βᾶθρον.

Where thou mayest bring thy offerings, to avert  
His further ire, with prayers and vows renewed? 520

SAMSON.

His pardon I implore; but as for life,  
To what end should I seek it? when in strength  
All mortals I excelled, and great in hopes,  
With youthful courage, and magnanimous thoughts  
Of birth from Heaven foretold, and high exploits,  
Full of divine instinct, after some proof  
Of acts indeed heroic, far beyond  
The sons of Anak, famous now and blazed,  
Fearless of danger, like a petty god  
I walked about, admired of all and dreaded 530  
On hostile ground, none daring my affront.  
Then, swollen with pride, into the snare I fell  
Of fair fallacious looks, venereal trains,  
Softened with pleasure and voluptuous life;  
At length to lay my head and hallowed pledge  
Of all my strength in the lascivious lap  
Of a deceitful concubine, who shored me  
Like a tame wether, all my precious fleece,  
Then turned me out ridiculous, despoiled,  
Shaven, and disarmed among mine enemies. 540

ὑποῦ σε προστρόπαιον ἔξεσται πάλιν  
δεινὸν λιταῖσιν ἀποκαθήρασθαι κότον.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ξύμφημι καὐτὸς, ὥστε συγγνώμης τυχεῖν  
οὐχ, ὥστ' ἀκερδὲς ζῆν· ἐπεὶ νέος πάλαι  
πάντων προεῖχον σώματος ῥώμῃ βροτῶν,  
θράσει τε μεγαλόθυμος ἡβώσης φρενὸς,  
γεγώς τ' ἀριστεύων τε προγόνοντος Θεοῦ,  
ἔδειξα κλεινῶν Ἀνακιδῶν ὑπέρτερα  
ἔργ', οἶον ἥρωος, ἐνθέφ' ψυχῆς μένει 540  
ὥς γὰρ θεός τις, ὥς γ' ἐν ἀνθρώποις δοκεῖν,  
ἄφοβος ἐφοίτων, περιβόητος, οὐδ' ἔτλη  
οὐδεὶς μ' ὑβρίζων κερτομεῖν, ἐχθρός περ ὢν.  
ἀλλ' εὐπροσώπου δολοφόνους μαγεύμασιν  
ἔρωτος ἡδονῆς τε περιπεσῶν πάγαις,  
τρυφῇ τ' ἀχρεΐᾳ καρδίας τ' ὄγκῳ σφριγῶν,  
ὄσιόν τε κράτα καὶ σθένους ἐχέγγυον  
ἐν τῆς ἀπίστου παλλακῆς κόλποις φόβην  
ρίψας, τὸ πᾶν ἀπώλεσ' εὖμαλλον γάνος,  
οἶος κτιλος τις τιθασὸς ἀποκεκαρμένος. 550  
δράσασα δ', ἐχθροῖς αὐτίχ' ἦδ' ἔδωκέ με,  
γυμνόν τε καὶ γελαστόν ἐξεωσμένον.

## CHORUS.

Desire of wine and all delicious drinks,  
Which many a famous warrior overturns,  
Thou couldst repress; nor did the dancing ruby,  
Sparkling, out-poured, the flavour, or the smell,  
Or taste, that cheers the hearts of gods and men.  
Allure thee from the cool crystalline stream.

## SAMSON.


Wherever fountain or fresh current flowed  
Against the eastern ray, translucent, pure  
With touch ethereal of Heaven's fiery rod,  
I drank, from the clear milky juice allaying 550  
Thirst, and refreshed; nor envied them the grape  
Whose heads that turbulent liquor fills with fumes.

## CHORUS.

O madness! to think use of strongest wines  
And strongest drinks our chief support of health;  
When God with these forbidden made choice to rear  
His mighty champion, strong above compare,  
Whose drink was only from the liquid brook.

## SAMSON.

But what availed this temperance, not complete  
Against another object more enticing?



## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

πολλοὺς μὲν ἤδη τῶν ἀγακλειτῶν μάχαις  
οἴνου πόθος δέδμηκε καὶ τερπνῶν ποτῶν.  
σοὶ δ' ἦν κρατῆσαι τῶνδε· καὶ γὰρ οὐποτε  
σκιρτῶντ', ἐρυθρά θ', ἡδύοσμα πώματα,  
βροτῶν θεῶν τε χάρμα γεύσασθαι γλυκί,  
ψυχρῶς παρεξέτρεψέ σ' ὑαλίνης ῥοῆς.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

εἰ γὰρ ποτ' ὀρθρίαισιν ἀντία βολαῖς  
πηγῶν λιβάς τις διαφανῶν ἀπόρροι,  
αἰθρηγενεῖ ξύνοικος οὐρανοῦ φλογί,  
δίψης ἀρωγὸν καθαρὸν ἐμμίξας γάλα  
ἔπινον· οὐ γὰρ ἐφθόνον ὃν ἀμπέλου  
σφοδρὸν ταρασσοὶ καὶ φρενοπληγὲς μέθυ.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

φεῦ τῆς ἀνοίας, ὅς γε τὴν ῥώμην τρέφων  
αἰνῶν ποτῶν ἐγεύσατ', οὐδ' ἐφρόντισε  
Θεὸν τὸν ἄκρον τόνδε, τὸν μεγασθενῇ  
θρέψαι μαχήτην, εὖροον πίνονθ' ὕδωρ.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἀλλ', ὥς κρατούντων οἷς ἑτερπόμην πλέον,  
τί μοι τὸ κέρδος τοῦδε σῶφρονος τρόπου; 570

What boots it at one gate to make defence, 560  
And at another to let in the foe,  
Effeminately vanquished? by which means,  
Now blind, disheartened, shamed, dishonoured, quelled,  
To what can I be useful? wherein serve  
My nation, and the work from Heaven imposed,  
But to sit idle on the household hearth,  
A burdenous drone, to visitants a gaze,  
Or pitied object, these redundant locks  
Robustious, to no purpose clustering down,  
Vain monument of strength, till length of years 570  
And sedentary numbness craze my limbs,  
To a contemptible old age obscure?  
Here rather let me drudge, and earn my bread;  
Till vermin, or the draff of servile food,  
Consume me, and oft-invoked death  
Hasten the welcome end of all my pains.

## MANOAH.

Wilt thou then serve the Philistines with that gift  
Which was expressly given thee to annoy them?  
Better at home lie bed-rid, not only idle,  
Inglorious, unemployed, with age outworn. 580

μιᾶς τ' ἤ χρη' τὸν ἐχθρὸν εἰργαθεῖν πύλης,  
 ἑτέραν ἄφρουρον ὑπερορῶντ' ἀνάλκιδα;  
 ἐξ ὧν τυφλὸς τε, λήματός τ' ἀθυμία  
 ἄτιμος ἄλλως, οὐδὲν ἂν πόλεως ὑπερ  
 δράσαιμ', ἀνωφελούς δὲ κηφῆνος δίκην,  
 οἴκοι τε θάσσω, τῶν Θεοῦ τεταγμένων  
 ἔργων λέλησμαι, τοῖσι παρατυχοῦσί μοι  
 ἰδεῖν ἐλεινός· οἷσι δ' εὖκομός ποτε  
 ἴσχυον, ὡς μνημεῖα τοῦ πάλαι σθένους  
 μάτην κέχυνται βόστρυχοι· τέλος δέ με, 580  
 μελῶν ἀμαυρῶ λελυμένων ἀπραξία,  
 μάρψει μάλ' αἰσχρὸν τέρμ' ἀλύοντος βίου.  
 τοιγὰρ πικρὰν πρέπει με κερδαίνειν τροφήν  
 ἀνελευθέροις πόνοισιν, ἔστ' ἂν ἀσμένῳ,  
 εὐλαῖς φθαρέντι καὶ κακορρήνῳ βορᾷ,  
 πάντων ὅσων πέποιθα λωφῆσαι διδῶ  
 πολλαῖσί μοι ἵκκλητος εὐχαΐσιν μόρος.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἄρ' οὖν ἐπ' ἄτη τῶν Φιλιστίνων γέρας  
 λαβὼν, ὀφέλλων σφᾶς διαστρέψεις τόδε;  
 ἢ μὴν λεχήρη μᾶλλον ἐρρίφθαι σ' ἔδει 590  
 ἀργὸν παρηβήσαντ', ἀτίμητον Βροτοῖς.





Θεὸς δ', ὁ κρήνην ἐκ χθονὸς ξηρᾶς τὸ πρὶν  
 φλῦσαι κελεύσας, ἐκ μάχης κεκμηκότος  
 σοῦ προσκαλοῦντος, τήν τε σὴν δίψαν σβέσας,  
 ἄφρορρόν αὖθις σοῖσιν ὀφθαλμοῖς τὸ φῶς  
 τάχ' ἂν πορίζοι, τήν γε σὴν λειτουργίαν  
 ἔχειν ἀμείνω τοῦ παρελθόντος χρόνου·  
 οὐδ' ἔστ' ἔμοιγε τοῖσδε μὴ πεποιοθῆναι.  
 τί γὰρ τόδ' ἐν κόμαισι τερατῶδες σθένος  
 ἔτ' ἔστιν, εἰ μὴ τῆς Θεοῦ βουλῆς χάριν; 600  
 αὐτοῦ τὸ δῶρον, οὐ μάτην εἰργασμένου.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἦ κάρτα τούτοις ἅπερ ἐγὼ μαντεύομαι  
 ἐναντιοῦται· νυκτὶ δὴ τῶνδ' ὀμμάτων  
 ἄσπονδον εἶναι φῶς, τό τε ψυχῆς σέλας  
 διπλῶ τάχος βραχύβιον ἐκλείψειν σκότῳ·  
 τόσῃ ἀνίαν ὧδ' ἄθυμος ἡσθόμην  
 δύσελπις, ἣ φύσις τε, τῶν φρενῶν τροφός,  
 ἔδοξ' ἀπειπεῖν ἐς τὸ πᾶν· ἃ δ' ἤνυσα  
 κύδει προκόπτων, εἴτ' ἐπ' αἰσχύνῃ πεσὼν,  
 πρὸς τέρμ' ἀφιγμέν', ἐν βραχεὶ κιχήσομαι 610  
 τοὺς ἐκ παλαιῶν ἡσυχάζοντας πόνων.

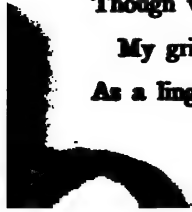
## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

σὺ δ' οὐκ ἂν ὀρθῶς τῶνδέ γ' ἔννοιαν τρέφοις,

From anguish of the mind and humours black, 600  
That mingle with thy fancy. I, however,  
Must not omit a father's timely care  
To prosecute the means of thy deliverance,  
By ransom or how else. Mean while be calm,  
And healing words from these thy friends admit.

## SAMSON.

Oh ! that torment should not be confined  
To the body's wounds and sores,  
With maladies innumerable,  
In heart, head, breast, and reins ;  
But must secret passage find 610  
To the inmost mind,  
There exercise all his fierce accidents,  
And on her purest spirits prey,  
As on entrails, joints, and limbs,  
With answerable pains, but more intense,  
Though void of corporal sense.  
My griefs not only pain me  
As a lingering disease,



τὴν δηξιθύμων ἐκπεφυκυῖαν παθῶν  
 μελαγχόλων τε τῆς φρενὸς φαντασμάτων·  
 ἐμοὶ δὲ δεῖ, λύτροισιν εἴτ' ἄλλω τρόπῳ,  
 ἐλευθεροῦν σε, καιρίαν σπουδὴν πατρί·  
 τὰ μὲν παρόντα στέρξον εὐκήλῳ φρενὶ,  
 δέχου δὲ μύθους τῶν φίλων θελκτηρίους.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

φεῦ, φεῦ,

τάδε μὴ 'ν κραδίαις καὶ  
 στήθεσι καὶ κεφαλαῖς μόναις πεσόντα  
 ἀνάριθμα μελῶν ἄχῃ,  
 ψυχᾶς βάθος ἄγνωστον  
 κρυφαίαις εἰσόδοις  
 ἐπελθεῖν,

620

ὅσ' ἔνεστιν καθαρώτατα  
 στρεβλοῦντ' αἰνοτάταις δύαις,  
 ὥς κατ' ἄρθρα καὶ ἔντερα,  
 ἀλγίῳ δ' ἔτι καρτερεῖν,  
 εἰ καὶ σώματος ἔξεδρα  
 οὐδ' ὀδύναις μόνον  
 ὥς χρονίας νόσου δέδηγμαι·

630

But, finding no redress, ferment and rage;

Nor less than wounds immedicable

620

Rankle, and fester, and gangrene,

To black mortification.

Thoughts, my tormentors, armed with deadly stings,

Mangle my apprehensive tenderest parts,

Exasperate, exulcerate, and raise

Dire inflammation, which no cooling herb

Or medicinal liquor can assuage,

Nor breath of vernal air from snowy Alp.

Sleep hath forsook and given me o'er

To death's benumbing opium as my only cure;

630

Thence faintings, swoonings of despair,

And sense of Heaven's desertion.

**I** was His nursing once, and choice delight,

destined from the womb,

ἐξανθοῦντα πυώδεσι  
 φλυκταίναις πυρετοῦ, ζέσαντ'  
 ἀνίατα σέσηπεν ἔλκη  
 σφακέλω κελαίνω·  
 ἂ δὲ καλχαίνω, σίνος ἐν ψυχᾷ  
 μέγα κεντρομανές, τὸ μάλιστ' αὐτᾶς  
 εἰαίσθητον δεινὰ διασπᾷ,  
 καὶ καταμύσσει φρένας οἰστροδόνους, 640  
 καύματ' ἐγείρανθ', οἷς ἂν ἐπφδάς  
 οὐ πάρεχοι ποτὸν εὐμενές, οὐ φυτὰ  
 κηλητήρια,  
 βουνῶν τ' αὔραι χιονωδῶν.  
 ὕπνος βλεφάρων φροῦδος ἀπέστη,  
 καὶ νηπενθὲς θανάτου δῶρον  
 μόνον αὐταρκες·  
 παπαῖ, παπαῖ,  
 κάρτα δύσελπις, καὶ φρέν' ἀθυμῶν  
 ἐπτοιήθην θεομισῆς, 650  
 ὃς ἦ  
 τὸ πάλαι τοῦ Σεμνοῦ,  
 οἶά τις εὐφιλόπαις ἔθρεψε τέκνον,

Promised by heavenly message twice descending.

Under his special eye

Abstemious I grew up, and thrived amain.

He led me on to mightiest deeds,

Above the nerve of mortal arm,

Against the uncircumcised, our enemies.

640

But now hath cast me off, as never known,

And to those cruel enemies,

Whom I by his appointment had provoked,

Left me all helpless, with the irreparable loss

Of sight, reserved alive to be repeated

The subject of their cruelty or scorn.

Nor am I in the list of them that hope ;

Hopeless are all my evils, all remediless.

This one prayer yet remains, might I be heard,

No long petition, speedy death,

650

The close of all my miseries, and the balm.

ὥσεὶ τηλύγετος γεγώς,

δις θεύθεν κηρυχθέντ'

ἄνων μαντεύματα.

ὕφ' οὗ προση-

-γητοῦ, φρενὸς ἐγκρατῆς,

ἥβας ἐς τέλος ἰκόμαν,

θνατοῦ τ' ἔργον ὑπερδραμῶν

660

ἡρίστευσ' ἐπὶ βαρβάρους.

ἀπερῆριμμένον αὖ τὰ νῦν

ἐχθοδοπὸν τ' ἐῖ,

αὐτὸς ἐμ' ὅς μάχαν κελεύσει,

ζωγρηθέντ', ἀλαόν τ' ἰδεῖν,

ὣν οὐκ ἂν τις ἄκος φέροι,

σκοπὸν τοῖσδ' ἱβρεώς τε κάπασ-

-συτέρων ὀνειδῶν.

οὐδ' ἐς ἐκείνους ἔστι τελεῖν μοι,

τοὺς εὐέλπιδας, οὐ γὰρ ἔτ' ἐλπιδες,

670

οὐτις ἀνιῶν, φεῦ, θεραπεία,

πλὴν τόδε δῶρον Θεοῦ πάρα μέτριον,

ὥς δὲ τόδ' ὄφελον εὐχαῖσι λαβεῖν,


τέρμ' ὀδύναισιν,

θάνατος, μῆχαρ ταχύπομπον.



## CHORUS.

Many are the sayings of the wise,  
In ancient and in modern books inrolled,  
Extolling patience as the truest fortitude;  
And to the bearing well of all calamities,  
All chances incident to man's frail life,  
Consolatories writ  
With studied argument, and much persuasion sought.  
Lenient of grief and anxious thought.  
But with the afflicted in his pangs their sound       660  
Little prevails, or rather seems a tune  
Harsh, and of dissonant mood from his complaint:  
Unless he feel within  
Some source of consolation from above,  
Secret refreshings, that repair his strength,  
And fainting spirits uphold.  
God of our fathers, what is man?  
That thou toward him with hand so various—  
Or might I say contrarious?—  
Temperest thy providence through his short course: 670  
Not evenly, as thou rulest  
The angelic orders and inferior creatures mute,



## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἦ μάλα πολλὰ σοφαῖς ἐνὶ κείμενα ῥήματα βίβλοις,

νῦν ἔν τε τῷ πάλαι χρόνῳ,

ἄθλον ἀριστείας τοῖς τλασιπόνουσις ἔδωκεν·

ἐστὶν δ' ὅσα δεινὰ βροτοῖσιν;

ὅσσ' ἀμνηνὸν ἔχει μερόπων γένος

680

ἐξαντλεῖν, ἐπὶ τοῖσδε γεγραμμέναι

εἰσὶν ἐπ' ὧδαί,

σαίνοντ' εὖθετ' ἔπη, ὀλοῶν θέλγητρα μεριμνῶν.

δυστάνῳ δ', ἀλύρου τρόπον ἀρμονίας παραμούσου,

μάταιος οἴχεται ψόφος

ἐκ τούτων· ὁ δ' ἔναυλον ἔχων θεόθεν μείλικτρον,

κρυπτὰν ἀρετᾶς τιν' ἀφορμὰν

καὶ παλίνορσον ἐνήκε φρεσὶν μένος.

ἦ, Πατρώϊε, ποικιλαβούλου

κάξυμβλήτου

690

χειρὸς ἐπήσθετο σᾶς γένος ἀνθρώπων ταχύποτμον·

οὐχ ὀμαλὸν, ὥς μακάρων χοροῦ

ἦ νηπίων, ἀναξ, βοτῶν ἀλόγων, μέδεις·

οὐδὲ λέγοιμ' ἂν

τόνδ' ἀδιάκριτον ὄχλον ἀλητῶν

Irrational and brute.

Nor do I name of men the common rout,

That, wandering loose about,

Grow up and perish, as the summer fly,

Heads without name, no more remembered ;

But such as thou hast solemnly elected,

With gifts and graces eminently adorned,

To some great work, thy glory,

680

And people's safety, which in part they effect.

Yet toward these thus dignified thou oft,

Amidst their highth of noon,

Changest thy countenance and thy hand, with no regard

Of highest favours past

From thee on them, or them to thee of service.

Nor only dost degrade them, or remit

To life obscured, which were a fair dismission ;

But throwest them lower than thou didst exalt them high,

Unseemly falls in human eye,

690

Too grievous for the trespass or omission.

Oft leavest them to the hostile sword

Of heathen and profane, their carcasses

To dogs and fowls a prey, or else captived,

μυιῶν τρόπον ὀλλυμένων θεροεσσῶν,

ἀωνύμους

ἀργῶν κεφαλὰς ἀμνάστους·

οὐκ, ἀλλ' οἴουσπερ

ἀρετᾶς ἄτε δῶρον ἔχοντας,

700

δείξας μεγάλοις αὐτὸς ἐπ' ἔργοις,

τῶν σῶν χάριν σέθεν τε

ἔν τε τοῖσδ' ἡμιτελέστοις

συχνῇ μεταλλαγᾷ μεσαμερίου φάους

κάββαλες, οὐδ' ὦν

αὐτὸς ἔδωκας καὐτὸς ἀπηύρω

ἐστὶν μελέδημά σοι, οὐδ' ἐριτίμων.

τοὺς δ' οὐ μόνον

πότμῳ κολάσας ἐπιεικεῖ

παθεῖν ἀφῆκας,

710

πλέον ἢ κατὰ τὸν πάλαι ὄλβον,

ὦν θ' ἤμαρτον, ἐν οἷσιν τ' ἤμπλακον,

αἴσχιστ' ἰδεῖν πεσόντας·

ἢ βιαίῳ πολέμῳ,

πτανοῖς τε κύρμα καὶ κυσὶν,

ἐχθροῖσι βαρβάροις καὶ βεβήλοις,

ἢ σώματ' αἰχμάλωτ' ἀπορρήψας ἔρς,

Or to the unjust tribunals, under change of times,  
And condemnation of the ingrateful multitude.  
If these they 'scape, perhaps in poverty  
With sickness and disease, thou bowest them down,  
Painful diseases and deformed,  
In crude old age;

700

Though not dishonourate, yet causeless suffering.  
The punishment of dissolute days. In time,  
Just or unjust, alike seem miserable.  
For on alike both come to evil end.

So deal not with this once thy glorious champion.  
The image of thy strength, and mighty minister.  
What do I beg? how base thou dost already?  
Rejoice him in this state calamitous, and turn  
His labours, for thou canst, to peaceful end.

εἴτ', ἐν χρόνων ἀλλαγαῖς,  
~~ἐχαρίτωσεν~~ πολιτῶν  
 δίκαις ἀδίκους· τάδε δ' εἴ τις 720  
 διέφυγεν, πένητα  
 πηρόν τε καὶ γεραίον ἀλ-  
 -γηδόσιν διαστρέφεις.  
 καὶ τοὺς οὐκ ἀτάκτους  
 ἀταξίας σὺ ποιῶν  
 ὦ Πάτερ, ἀλόγοις νόμοις ἔπραξας.  
 ὡς δὲ συνελόντι λέγειν,  
 πότμον λέλογχ' ἀδιάφορον  
 σὰ θέσμ' ὁ παραλιπὼν τε χῶ φυλάξας,  
 ἄμφω τὸ πλείστον ἐξ ἴσης ἐφθαρμένω. 730  
 μὴ τὸν πάλαι παμμέγαν,  
 λήματός τε θείου  
 αὐτὸν, θεὸν ὥς δυνάμει, δι-  
 -άκονον φέριστον,  
 αἵκιζε τοῖσδ' ἀντίσταθμα·  
 ἥκισας μὲν, ἥκισας·  
 ἀλλ' ὦ πάντα νωμῶν,  
 ἰδὼν νιν ὧδ' ἐλεινόν,  
 δὸς φρενογαθῇ πόνων τελευτάν.

But who is this? what thing of sea or land— 710  
Female of sex it seems—  
That so bedecked, ornate, and gay,  
Comes this way sailing,  
Like a stately ship  
Of Tarsus, bound for the isles  
Of Javan or Gadire,  
With all her bravery on, and tackle trim,  
Sails filled, and streamers waving,  
Courtèd by all the winds that hold them play,  
An amber scent of odorous perfume 720  
Her harbinger, a damsel train behind?  
Some rich Philistian matron she may seem;  
And now at nearer view, no other certain  
Than Dalila thy wife.

SAMSON.

My wife! my traitress; let her not come near me.

CHORUS.

Yet on she moves, now stands and eyes thee fixed,  
About to have spoke; but now, with head declined,

τίς δ' ἄρα, πόντοθεν εἴτ' ἀπὸ χέρσου, 740

θῆλει' ἐσιδεῖν, ἔρχεται ἡμῖν;

ἢ μάλα λαμπρῷ κόσμῳ τρυφερά,

χῶς ἀπὸ Ταρσοῦ ναῦς ὑψιφανῆς

νήσους Ἑλλάδος ἢ ποτ' Ἰβήρων

ποτινισσομένη, καλὸν αἰωρεῖ

στολμὸν ναυτικόν, ἰστία λαμπρῶς

μετεώροισιν παρὰ σημείοις

ἀνέμου σαίνοντος ἀκραοῦς.

τῇδ' ἐναλβγκιος, ἀντὶ προπομποῦ

κηφέσεως ὁδμὴν αὔρας,

750

σὺν δ' ἀκολούθῳ χορῷ ἡγεῖται

καλλιθεῖρψ' τοῖα γ' ἐσορᾶν

πολύδωρός τις μήτηρ εὐτεκνος

ὦδ' ἐπιχωρία· ἀλλ' ἐγγὺς ἰδὼν

σκεθρῶς ἔμαθον

τὴν σὴν, δύστηνε, γυναῖκα.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

τὴν γυναῖκα, τὴν προδοῦσαν; ἄπαγε, μὴ πελαζέτω.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλλ' ὅμως, ὅψιν βεβαίαν ὁμμάτων τετραμμένην

δεῦρ' ὁρῶ στείχουσιν, ἐν δὲ τῷ λαλεῖν ἐπαύσατο·



Like a fair flower surcharged with dew, she weeps,  
And words addressed seem into tears dissolved,  
Wetting the borders of her silken veil. 730  
But now again she makes address to speak.

## DALILA.

With doubtful feet and wavering resolution  
I came, still dreading thy displeasure, Samson,  
Which to have merited, without excuse,  
I cannot but acknowledge; yet if tears  
May expiate—though the fact more evil drew  
In the perverse event than I foresaw—  
My penance hath not slackened, though my pardon  
No way assured. But conjugal affection,  
Prevailing over fear and timorous doubt, 740  
Hath led me on, desirous to behold  
Once more thy face, and know of thy estate,  
If aught in my ability may serve  
To lighten what thou sufferest, and appease  
Thy mind with what amends is in my power,  
Though late, yet in some part to recompense  
My rash, but more unfortunate, misdeed.

## SAMSON.

Out, out, hyæna! these are thy wonted arts,

κράτα δ' ἔστηκεν κατηφής, πολυδρόσου τ' ἄνθους δίκην  
 εὐχαρις κλαίονσα· τᾶπη δ' ἐντέτηκε δακρύων 761  
 ἐκροαῖς, χεῖλη διαίνοντ' εὐϋφῶν καλυμμάτων  
 τὸ δὲ δοκοῦν, φθέγγεται ἄν ἤδη, δευτέροις βουλεύμασι.

## ΔΗΛΙΛΗ.

ἦκω, ποδῶν βάδισμα καὶ βουλὰς φρενῶν,  
 σὸν γὰρ δέδοικα θυμὸν, αἰωρουμένη  
 ὥς σοὶ μάλ' ὀρθῶς αἰτιωμένη τάδε  
 ξύμφημι· καίτοι, πραγμάτων καταστροφῇ,  
 ὦν γοῦν προήδη πῆματ' εἵργασμαι πλέω.  
 ἀλλ' εἴ γε δακρύουσαν ὦν αἰσχροῦς ἔδρων  
 λύτρον τελεῖν ἔξεστι, τοῦδέ γ' οὐδαμῶς 770  
 ἐπαυσάμην ποτ', οὐδὲ συγγνώμην ἔχω.  
 ἀνθ' ὦν, δάμαρτος ἰμέρῳ νικωμένη,  
 φόβον μεθεῖσα καὶ διχόρροπον φρένα,  
 πάρειμι, τοῦ τέ σ' αὖθις ἀθρῆσαι πόθῳ,  
 καὶ πάντα δρασεῖουσά γ' ὦν σθένος πάρα,  
 παθῶν τ' ἐπιδᾶς ἀντίποινά θ' ὕβρεως.  
 ἄκαιρα μὲν τὰδ', ὦν δ' ἔρεξ' ἀντίρροπα,  
 πταίσασά γ' ἡ θέλουσα, πολλοστὸν μέρος.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἔρρ' αἰσχρόμητι, καὶ πάλαι τούτων ἴδρις,

And arts of every woman false like thee,  
To break all faith, all vows, deceive, betray, 750  
Then, as repentant, to submit, beseech,  
And reconciliation move with feigned remorse,  
Confess, and promise wonders in her change :  
Not truly penitent, but chief to try  
Her husband, how far urged his patience bears,  
His virtue or weakness which way to assail  
Then, with more cautious and instructed skill,  
Again transgresses, and again submits ;  
That wisest and best men, full oft beguiled,  
With goodness principled not to reject 760  
The penitent, but ever to forgive,  
Are drawn to wear out miserable days,  
Entangled with a poisonous bosom-snake ;  
If not by quick destruction soon cut off,  
As I by thee, to ages an example.

ὕαινα κοῦκ ἄνθρωπος· οὐδ' ἄλλῃ τρόπῳ 780  
 ἐσχημάτισται πᾶς γυναικεῖος δόλος,  
 πίστιν προδουσῶν κεῖς τὸ πᾶν ψευδωμότων.  
 αἵπερ φενάκισμόν τε καὶ δεινὰς τέχνας  
 λιτῶν μεταλλάσσουσι καὶ ξυναλλαγῆς  
 κλαυθμῶν τε πλαστῶν· πρὸς δὲ καὶ, θαυμαστὸν ὥς,  
 ἦθη παρεγγυῶσι βελτίῳ πολύ·  
 τὰ πάντα δ' οὐδὲν, τοῦδ' αἰὲν πειρωμένων,  
 ὅσον γ' ἂν ἀνὴρ δυσκόμιστον αἰνέσαι  
 βίον, τίνων μάλιστ' ἂν ἐμβολαῖς δόλων  
 καθιππάσαιντ', ἀνδρεῖον εἴτ' ἄρ' ἀσθενῇ. 790  
 ἔπειτα δ' αὖθις, διάδοχον πανουργίας,  
 εὐταξίαν παρεῖχον εὐμαθεστέραν.  
 ὅθεν γ' ἀριστεύοντες ἐν σοφοῖς τινὲς,  
 σπουδαῖα παιδευθέντες ὥστε μὴ ἔκβαλεῖν  
 καὶ τῶν πονηρῶν ὃς παραιτεῖται δίκην,  
 πανάθλιον τρίβουσιν ἡπατημένοι  
 βίον, πλοκαῖσι θανάσιμου πεπλεγμένοι  
 ψυχὴν ἐχλιδνης, εἴ γε μὴ τοῦναντίον  
 διεφθάρησαν ταχύμοροι, τοῖς ἐκγόνοις  
 μνημεῖον, ὥς ἔγωγε σῶν δόλων ἵπο. 800

## DALILA.

Yet hear me, Samson ; not that I endeavour  
To lessen or extenuate my offence,  
But that, on the other side, if it be weighed  
By itself, with aggravations not surcharged,  
Or else with just allowance counterpoised, 770  
I may, if possible, thy pardon find  
The easier toward me, or thy hatred less.—  
First granting, as I do, it was a weakness  
In me, but incident to all our sex,  
Curiosity, inquisitive, importune  
Of secrets, then with like infirmity  
To publish them—both common female faults—  
Was it not weakness also to make known,  
For importunity, that is for nought,  
Wherein consisted all thy strength and safety? 780  
To what I did thou shewedst me first the way.  
But I to enemies revealed, and should not—  
Nor shouldest thou have trusted that to woman's frailty ;  
Ere I to thee, thou to thyself wast cruel.  
Let weakness then with weakness come to parle,  
So near related, or the same of kind ;  
Thine forgive mine ; that men may censure thine

## ΔΗΛΙΔΗ.

ὅμως δ' ἄκουε τοὺς ἐμούς, Σάμψων, λόγους·  
 οὐκ ἂν τι μειώσαιμ' ἂν ὦν ἔδρων ψόγον·  
 ἀλλ' εἰ καλῶς ἔξεστι μετρήσαι τάδε,  
 μὴ προστεθέντος, παρὰ νόμον ῥέπειν, βάρους,  
 ἢ καὶ δικαίοις ἀντισηκῶσαι σταθμοῖς,  
 ἴσως σέθεν τύχοιμ' ἂν εὐμενεστέρου,  
 ἢ δυσμένειαν τήν γε νῦν παρειμένου.  
 ἡμάρτον, οὐδὲ τοῦτ' ἀπαρνεῖσθαί με δεῖ,  
 πάθος γυναικῶν ἴδιον, ἀποκεκρυμμένα  
 σκαιῶς ἀνιστοροῦσα παρακαίρῳ πόθῳ, 810  
 καὶ πρὸς, τὰ δ' ἄμφω κοινὰ θηλειῶν κακὰ,  
 ἄλλοις παραγγέλλουσα· δειλίαν δὲ σὺ  
 οὐκ ὤφλες, ἀργῶν πραγμάτων ἡσσημένος,  
 ὅθεν σθένειν ὑπήρχεν, ἀποδείξας τίδε;  
 ἔγωγ' ὀπαδὸς σοῦ προσηγητῆρος ἦ.  
 μαθοῦσα δ', ἐχθροῖς, οὐδ' ἐχρήν, ἠϋδων ἐγώ.  
 σὲ δ' οὐ καλῶς γυναικὶ πιστεῦσαι λέγω,  
 βλάψαντα σαυτὸν, ἀδικίᾳ φθάσαντ' ἐμέ.  
 ἐν τοισίδ' οὔν ξυμβῶμεν, ὥς δ' ὁμόγμιος  
 σφαλεῖς σφαλεῖσαν ἔλεω δέξαι τρόπῳ· 820  
 ἀνθ' ὧν ἂν ἐν βροτοῖσι συγγνώμης ἴσως

The gentler, if severely thou exact not  
More strength from me than in thyself was found.  
And what if love, which thou interpretest hate, 790  
The jealousy of love, powerful of sway  
In human hearts, nor less in mine toward thee,  
Caused what I did? I saw thee mutable  
Of fancy, feared lest one day thou wouldst leave me  
As her at Timna; sought by all means therefore  
How to endear, and hold thee to me firmest.  
No better way I saw than by importuning  
To learn thy secrets, get into my power  
Thy key of strength and safety. Thou wilt say,  
"Why then revealed?"—I was assured by those 800  
Who tempted me, that nothing was designed  
Against thee but safe custody and hold.  
That made for me; I knew that liberty  
Would draw thee forth to perilous enterprises,  
While I at home sat full of cares and fears,  
Wailing thy absence in my widowed bed;  
Here I should still enjoy thee, day and night,  
Mine and love's prisoner, not the Philistines',  
Whole to myself, unhazarded abroad,  
Fearless at home of partners in my love. 810

μάλλον τύχοις, μὴ μείζον' ἐκπράξας ἐμέ  
 ὡν αὐτὸς εἶχες· σκεπτέον δέ· μή τί μοι,  
 μισεῖν δοκούσῃ, ξῆλος ἐξ ἔρωτος ἦν  
 γεγώς, ὁ καρδίας τε καὶ φρενὸς μέδων,  
 ὃ ταῦτα δράσας; κουφόνουν μαθοῦσά σε,  
 δείσασα δ' ὡς ἂν αὐτε χηρώσαντ' ἐμέ,  
 ὡς πρὶν σὺ τὴν Τιμνίτιν, ἔσπευδον τόδε,  
 ὅπως σε συνδήσαιμι δυσλύτοις πέδαις·  
 τὸ δ' ἠπόρουν, εἰ μὴ γε κεκτῆμην ποθὲν 830  
 τὴν σὴν κρυφαίαν κλῆδα τῆς σωτηρίας.  
 τί δ' ἦν, ἐφ' ᾧ τόδ' ἐκμαθοῦς' αὐδᾶν ἔτλην;  
 ἦ μὴν ὑπέσχονθ' οἷ με κλέπτουντες δόλῳ  
 ὡς μηδὲν ἐννοοῦντες εἴ γε μὴ σέθεν  
 φρουρᾶς ἀφύκτου δεσμά· πρὸς δ' ἐμοῦ τίδ' ἦν.  
 σὲ γὰρ σάφ' ἦδη διὰ χερῶν συχνοὺς ἔχειν  
 ἐλείθερον μέλλοντα κινδύνους, ἐμέ  
 ἐῶντα χήραν ἐν πολυστόνῳ λέχει  
 ἀνδρός τε φρούδου περιδεᾶ· τὸ δ' ἔμπαλιν  
 μένοντα, πάννυχόν τε καὶ πανήμερον 840  
 αὐτὴ καθ' αὐτὴν εἶχον ἂν μόνη μόνον  
 φιλοῦσα, καὶ θύραθεν ἄψανστον δίης,  
 ἔρωτος αἰχμάλωτον, οὐκ ἐχθροῦ τινός.



These reasons in love's law have passed for good,  
Though fond and reasonless to some perhaps;  
And love hath oft, well meaning, wrought much woe,  
Yet always pity or pardon hath obtained.  
Be not unlike all others, not austere  
As thou art strong, inflexible as steel.  
If thou in strength all mortals dost exceed,  
In uncompassionate anger do not so.

## SAMSON.

How cunningly the sorceress displays  
Her own transgressions, to upbraid me mine!— 820  
That malice, not repentance, brought thee hither,  
By this appears. I gave, thou sayest, the example,  
I led the way; bitter reproach, but true;  
I to myself was false ere thou to me.  
Such pardon therefore as I give my folly,  
Take to thy wicked deed; which when thou seest  
Impartial, self-severe, inexorable,  
Thou wilt renounce thy seeking, and much rather  
Confess it feigned. Weakness is thy excuse,

ἔρως μὲν ἔσθ' ὁ τόνδε κυρώσας λόγον,  
 εἰ καὶ παρ' ἄλλοις ἀλογίαν ὀφλισκάνει.  
 ἔρως μὲν ἄκων πόλλ' ἀπείργασται κακὰ,  
 αἰὲ δ' ἀθῶος ἐν βροτοῖσιν ἐκρίθη.  
 μή νυν σιδηρόφρων τε κᾶκαμπτος μένει,  
 οἷς τ' ἄρ' οὔτις ἄλλος, ἐν ῥώμης λόγῳ  
 ἀθελκτος ἴσθι, μῆδ', ἀριστεύων σθένος,  
 ὀργῆς ἀπηνοῦς ἄθλον ἐν θνητοῖς λάβῃς.

850

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

αὐτὴν μὲν ἦδ' ἡ φαρμακίς, πυκνῷ δόλῳ,  
 ἔμ' ὥς ἀληθῶς κερτομοῦσ', ἐμέμψατο.  
 κακὸν φρονούσα, κοῦ μεταλλαγεῖσα νοῦν,  
 ἦκεις τεκμήριον δέ· καὶ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἦ,  
 πικρὸν τόδ', ἀψευδὲς δέ, λοιδορεῖς ἐμέ,  
 ὁ πρῶτος εἰς ἑμαυτὸν ἀδικίας τύπον  
 τόσης προδείξας, πρὶν σὲ τολμῆσαί ποτε.  
 ὅσον μὲν οὖν ἔμοιγε συγγνώμης λαχεῖν  
 τῆς μωρίας ἔξεστι, σῆς πανουργίας  
 ἔχοις ἄν· ἐξ ἐμοῦ δὲ κατ' ἑμαυτοῦ δίκας  
 ὀρθὰς ὁρώσα κάπαραιτήτους νόμους,  
 ἃ νῦν ματεύεις, πρόφασιν ὥς θηρωμένη,  
 τάχ' ἂν μεθείης· τῶν φρενῶν ἀρρώστίαν

860

And I believe it,—weakness to resist 830  
Philistian gold. If weakness may excuse,  
What murderer, what traitor, parricide,  
Incestuous, sacrilegious, but may plead it?  
All wickedness is weakness; that plea therefore  
With God or man will gain thee no remission.  
But love constrained thee;—call it furious rage  
To satisfy thy lust; love seeks to have love.  
My love how could'st thou hope, who tookest the way  
To raise in me inexpiable hate,  
Knowing, as needs I must, by thee betrayed? 840  
In vain thou striv'st to cover shame with shame,  
Or by evasions thy crime uncoverest more.

## DALILA.

Since thou determinest weakness for no plea  
In man or woman, though to thy own condemning,  
Hear what assaults I had, what snares besides,  
What sieges girt me round, ere I consented;

σκῆψιν προτείνεις, οὐδ' ἔγωγ' ἀρνήσομαι,  
 τὸ μὴ σθένειν γε τοῖσι δελεάζουσί σε  
 χρύσῳ Φιλιστίνοισιν ἀντέχειν τότε·  
 οἷς εἴ τιν' ἦν φεύγοντα νικῆσαι λόγοις,  
 τίς δὴ ποθ' ἱερόσυλος ἢ πατροκτόνος,  
 προδότης τίς, αἰνόλεκτρος ἢ μαιΐφονος, 870  
 ἐπὶ τοισδ' οὐκ ἄμεμπτος; ἀσθενεῖ γε πᾶς  
 ὃς ἂν ποινηρὸς ᾗ· σέ δ' οὐ ποτ' ἂν Θεὸς  
 ἢ θνητὸς ἀπολύσειε τοιούτων χάριν.  
 ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἔρωτος τοῦτ' ἔδρας ἤσσημένη,  
 οἰστρηλατουμένη δὲ λαγνείας μένει.  
 ἔρωτ' ἔρωσ γὰρ ἀνταμοιβὸν ἄρνυται,  
 οὐ γ' οὔτιν' ἐλπίδ' εἶχες, ἢ σαυτῆς κᾶτα  
 τεύνασα δυσκάθαρτον ἐξ ἐμοῦ στίγος·  
 πρὸς σοῦ γὰρ ἤδη δεινὸν ἠπατημένος.  
 αὐτὴ μὲν ἦλως ἢ θέλουσ' ὑπεκφυγεῖν, 880  
 αἴσχει ματαίῳ προσβαλοῦσ' αἰσχος πόνω.

## ΔΗΛΙΔΗ.


ἐπεὶ σὺ, καί περ σαυτὸν αἰτιώμενος,  
 γυναιξὶν ἀνδράσιν τ' ἀπεννέπεις τάδε,  
 φαίην ἂν οἷας ἐμβολὰς τε καὶ δόλων  
 τέχνας περιβληθεῖσα, πολιορκουμένων

Which might have awed the best resolved of men,  
The constantest, to have yielded without blame.  
It was not gold, as to my charge thou layest,  
That wrought with me. Thou knowest the magistrates  
And princes of my country came in person, 851  
Solicited, commanded, threatened, urged,  
Adjured by all the bonds of civil duty  
And of religion ; pressed how just it was,  
How honourable, how glorious, to entrap  
A common enemy, who had destroyed  
Such numbers of our nation ; and the priest  
Was not behind, but ever at my ear,  
Preaching how meritorious with the gods  
It would be to ensnare an irreligious 860  
Dishonourer of Dagon. What had I  
To oppose against such powerful arguments?  
Only my love of thee held long debate,  
And combated in silence all these reasons  
With hard contest. At length that grounded maxim,  
So rife and celebrated in the mouths  
Of wisest men, that to the public good  
Private respects must yield, with grave authority  
Took full possession of me and prevailed ;  
Virtue, as I thought, truth, duty, so enjoining. 870

δίκην, ἀπεῖπον, οἷσιν αὐθάδης μάλα  
 ἐνέδωκεν ἂν τις, ἀφγεῶς φοβούμενος·  
 χρύσου γὰρ οὐκ ἦν ἔργον, ὥς με διέβαλες·  
 τοὺς δ' ἐν τέλει κάτοισθα, πρωτάρχους πόλεως,  
 αὐτούς μ' ἀπειλαῖς ἐντολαῖς τε καὶ λιταῖς 890  
 ἐπικαλέσαντας, πρὸς νόμου τε δημίου  
 τοῦ τ' ἐκ θεῶν σθένοντος, ὥς μάλ' εὐπρεπῶς  
 πεσοῖτο, καλλίσταισιν ἀγρευτὸς πάγαις,  
 ὃ τῶν πολιτῶν μυρίους ἀποκτανών.  
 οἱδ' ὕστερεῖν ἔδοξαν οἱ τοὺς θεοὺς πέρι,  
 θρυλοῦντες ὥς εὐνοίαν ἔκ γε δαιμόνων  
 κτήσοιτο πᾶς τις ξυλλαβὼν τὸν δυσσεβῶς  
 Δάγων' ἀτιμάσαντα· τοιούτοις μὲν οὖν  
 τίς ἢ λογισμοῖς ἀνταγωνιστῆς ἐγώ;  
 ἔρως ὑπὲρ σοῦ χρόνιος ἀντιστὰς μόνος 900  
 στεῖρρόν σιωπῶν ἄθλον ἀθλεύειν ἔτλη.  
 τέλος, τὸ περιβόητον ἐκ σοφωτάτων  
 κηρυχθὲν ἀνδρῶν ῥῆμα καὶ παλαίφατον,  
 ΚΡΑΤΕΙΝ ΤΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΝ, τῶν φρενῶν ἐδέσποσεν·  
 αἰδῶς γὰρ ἦν, καὶ πίστις, ὥς δοκεῖν γ' ἐμοί,  
 ἀρετὴ τε σεμνότιμος, οἷς ἡπευγόμενη.

## SAMSON.

I thought where all thy circling wiles would end ;  
In feigned religion, smooth hypocrisy.  
But had thy love, still odiously pretended,  
Been, as it ought, sincere, it would have taught thee  
Far other reasonings, brought forth other deeds.  
I, before all the daughters of my tribe  
And of my nation, chose thee from among  
My enemies, loved thee, as too well thou knewest,  
Too well ; unbosomed all my secrets to thee,  
Not out of levity, but overpowered 880  
By thy request, who could deny thee nothing ;  
Yet now am judged an enemy. Why then  
Didst thou at first receive me for thy husband,  
Then, as since then, thy country's foe professed ?  
Being once a wife, for me thou wast to leave  
Parents and country ; nor was I their subject,  
Nor under their protection but my own,  
Thou mine, not theirs. If aught against my life



## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἡ κάρτ' ἔλεξας προσδοκῶντί μοι τάδε·  
 θεῶν γὰρ εὐσχημόν τι καὶ πλαστὸν σέβας  
 ἔσθ', οὐ γ' ἔκυρσαν σῶν δόλων περιστροφαί.  
 εἰ δ' ὃν προτείνεις, ὥς ἐχρῆν, ἀκήρατος 910  
 ἔρως ὑπῆρχε, τῶνδε διαφέροντά σ' ἂν  
 ἐδίδαξεν ἔργα καὶ λόγοις ἐνουθέτει.  
 σὲ δὴ πρὸ πασῶν τῆς ἐμῆς πάτρας κορῶν  
 ἐμφυλίων τε, κακὰ γένους ἐξειλόμεν  
 ἐχθροῦ· πόθου γάρ, ᾧ κατειχόμεν, σέθεν,  
 ἄγαν κατέγνωσ τὴν ἄγαν προθυμίαν,  
 ὥστ' ἐκκαλύψαι τὰν φρεσὶν κειμήλια,  
 οὐχ ὥς ἀνοίας ἔνοχος, ἀλλ' ἡσσημένος  
 σοῦ λιπαρούσης, ἣ τὸ πᾶν ὑπεικτέον.  
 νῦν ταῦτα δράσας ἐχθρὸς ὢν ἐφηυρέθην. 920  
 τί δή μ' ἐδέξω νυμφικαῖς εὐναῖς τότε,  
 ἐχθρόν γε τῆς σῆς νῦν τε καὶ πάλαι πάτρας;  
 σὲ δ' εἰσάπαξ δάμαρτα, τὴν πόλιν τ' ἔδει  
 παρ' οὐδέν, ἀντ' ἐμοῦγε, καὶ γεννήτορας  
 ἄγειν ἐκείνων δ' οὐκ ἐμοὶ κλύειν θέμις,  
 σοῦ γὰρ φύλαξ καὶ τοῦδε τᾶνδρὸς αὐτὸς ἦ.  
 πρὸς ταῦθ' ὅ σ' αἰτῶν οἶσιν ἂν μ' εἴη κτανεῖν



Thy country sought of thee, it sought unjustly,  
Against the law of nature, law of nations; 890  
No more thy country, but an impious crew  
Of men conspiring to uphold their state  
By worse than hostile deeds, violating the ends  
For which our country is a name so dear;  
Not therefore to be obeyed. But zeal moved thee;  
To please thy gods thou didst it. Gods unable  
To acquit themselves and prosecute their foes  
But by ungodly deeds, the contradiction  
Of their own deity, gods cannot be;  
Less therefore to be pleased, obeyed, or feared. 900  
These false prettexts and varnished colours failing,  
Bare in thy guilt how foul must thou appear!

*DALILA.*

In argument with men a woman ever  
Goes by the worse, whatever be her cause.

*SAMSON.*

For want of words no doubt, or lack of breath—  
Witness when I was worried with thy peals.

φύσεως ὑπερβέβηκε καὶ βροτῶν νόμους.  
 οἱ δ' ἐκπεσόντες τῶν πολιτείας ὄρων,  
 δεινοῖς ἐπ' ἔργοις ξυνομόσαντες ἐκδίκως, 930  
 οἷ' οὐδ' ἂν ἐξείη ποτ' ἐν μάχῃ δορὸς  
 ῥυσιπτόλει, κάλλιστα τῆς πάτρας γέρα  
 φθείρουσ', ἐρασμίαν τ' ἐν ἀνθρώποις χάριν  
 μὴ δὴ τοιούτους ἀξιῶν τιμῆς λαχεῖν.  
 μῶν σοῖς θεοῖς ἀρεστὰ ταῦτ' ἐσπούδασας;  
 ἀλλ' οἷ γε μὴ σθένουσι μηδ' αὐτοὶ μένουν,  
 ἦ πού γε δὴ τιν' ἐχθρὸν ἀνατρέπειν βία,  
 μὴ οὐ δύσθεόν τι δρῶντες, οἷά τ' ἂν θεοῖς  
 οὐπὼς ξυνάδοι, τούσδε γ' οὐ θεοὺς λέγω,  
 οὐδ' ἂν τρόπῳ νιν προσκύσαιμ' ἂν εὐσεβεῖ. 940  
 σκήψει σφαλεῖς' οὖν χρωμάτων πεπλασμένων,  
 αἰσχροὺς ἐφάνθης ὑπερέχουσ' ἀλιτρίαν.

## ΔΗΛΙΔΗ.

ἦ μὴν ἀνὴρ, δίκαιον εἶτ' ἐκτὸς δίκης,  
 αἰεὶ γυναικὸς, ἐν λόγων μάχῃ, κρατεῖ.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἐπῶν γὰρ, ἦ ποθ' οὐνεκα σμικρὰς πνοῆς  
 εὐ σοῦ τόδ' ἤδη καταβοάμενος πάλαι.

## DALILA.

I was a fool, too rash, and quite mistaken  
In what I thought would have succeeded best.  
Let me obtain forgiveness of thee, Samson;  
Afford me place to shew what recompense 910  
Toward thee I intend for what I have misdome,  
Misguided; only what remains past cure  
Bear not too sensibly, nor still insist  
To afflict thyself in vain. Though sight be lost,  
Life yet hath many solaces, enjoyed  
Where other senses want not their delights,  
At home, in leisure and domestic ease,  
Exempt from many a care and chance, to which  
Eye-sight exposes daily men abroad.  
I to the lords will intercede, not doubting 920  
Their favourable ear, that I may fetch thee  
From forth this loathsome prison-house, to abide  
With me, where my redoubled love and care,  
With nursing diligence, to me glad office,  
May ever tend about thee to old age,  
With all things grateful cheered, and so supplied,  
That, what by me thou hast lost, thou least shalt miss.

## ΔΗΛΙΔΗ.

φεύ τῆς ἀνοίας τῆς τ' ἄγαν εὐθαρσίας.  
 ἔπταισ' ἐν οἷσι καὶ μάλιστ' ἐλπὶς παρήν.  
 εἶη δ' ἄρ', εἶη σῆς με συγγνώμης τυχεῖν  
 κάρτ' ἀντίποινα, καιρὸν ἦν λάβω, κακῶν 950  
 φέροιμ' ἄν' ἄλλων παρενόμουν ἡγουμένων  
 σέ δ' οὖν προσήκει τοὺς ἄγαν κλαυθμοὺς ἔαν,  
 στέρνοντα τᾶχθος τῆς δυσιάτου δύης.  
 πόλλ' ἐστὶ καίπερ ὄμματ' ἐστερημένῳ  
 θελκτῆρί, οἷς γ' αἴσθησις ἐν λοιποῖς πάρα,  
 οἴκοι σχολάζουσιν τε φραντίδων τ' ἄτερ  
 αἰ τοὺς βλέποντας τοῖς καθ' ἡμέραν πόνοις  
 τρίβουσιν ἐκδημοῦντας· ἀσμένην μὲν οὖν  
 τοὺς τῇδ' ἀνακτας ἐμὲ παραιτεῖσθαι χρεῶν,  
 τῶν δ' οὐκ ἀθέλκτων τεύξομαι, σέ τοῦδ' ὕπως 960  
 ἔσται μ' ὑπεκώσασαν ἐργαστηρίου  
 τοῦ δυσφορήτου, ξύννομον τηρεῖν ἐμοί.  
 τάνθενδε, τῆς πρὶν ἔξοχον προθυμίας  
 ζῆλον παρασχοίμην ἂν εὐφιλῆς τροφῆς,  
 σέ μηδὲ γηράσκοντα θυμηδοὺς χαρᾶς  
 δεῖσθαι, τὰ φροῦδα δ' ὥς μάλιστά γ' ἀναλαβεῖ  
 ἐμοῦ πορούσης, ἐξ ἐμοῦ βεβλαμμένον.

## SAMSON.

No, no, of my condition take no care ;  
It fits not ; thou and I long since are twain.  
Nor think me so unwary or accursed, 930  
To bring my feet again into the snare  
Where once I have been caught : I know thy trains.  
Though dearly to my cost ; thy gins, and toils,  
Thy fair enchanted cup, and warbling charms,  
No more on me have power, their force is nulled ;  
So much of adder's wisdom I have learned,  
To fence my ear against thy sorceries.  
If in my flower of youth and strength, when all men  
Loved, honoured, feared me, thou alone couldst hate me,  
Thy husband, slight me, sell me, and forego me, 940  
How wouldst thou use me now, blind, and thereby  
Deceivable, in most things as a child  
Helpless, thence easily contemned and scorned,  
And last neglected ! How wouldst thou insult,  
When I must live uxorious to thy will  
In perfect thralldom ! How again betray me,  
Bearing my words and doings to the lords,  
To gloss upon, and, censuring, frown or smile !  
This jail I count the house of liberty

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μὴ τῆς τύχης σοὶ τῆς ἐμῆς μελησάτω.  
 πάλαι διχοστατοῦσιν οὐ πρέπει τόδε.  
 οἰκεῖά μοι, πολλοῦ γὰρ ἀντ' ἐπριάμην 970  
 τὴν γνῶσιν, οἷα δικτύων ἀγρεύματα,  
 οἴους ποτῆρας, οἶον ὡς Σειρὴν μέλος  
 ἐμῆχανήσω· ταῦτα δ' ἦν εἶχέν ποτε  
 δύναμιν ἀπώλεσ', ὡς δὲ κωφίας, καλὰ  
 σὰ πρὸς μαγεύματ' ὥτ' ἐφραξάμην σοφῶς.  
 εἰ δῆτ' ἔτ' ἀκμάζοντα πρωθήβῃ σθένει,  
 πάντων πόθῳ φόβῳ τε τιμαλφούμενον,  
 μόνῃ πολιτῶν τόνδε τὸν σαυτῆς πόσιν  
 στυγεῖν ἀπορῥῆψαί τε καὶ πωλεῖν ἔτλης,  
 πῶς ἂν με τυφλωθέντα χειρώσαιο νῦν, 980  
 δόλοισι ληπτὸν, κἀπόρου βρέφους τρόπον  
 γελωτοποιὸν καὶ παρημελημένον;  
 ποίοισιν ἂν με σκώμμασιν τε καὶ τέχναις  
 τὸν πάγχυ δοῦλον, τὸν δάμαρτος ἥσσοινα,  
 βάλοις, ὅς' ἢ δράσαιμι, τοῖς ἐπιστάταις,  
 ἢ καὶ φράσας τύχοιμι, καταπροδοῦσ' αἰέ,  
 γέλῳτ' ἐγείρασ', ἢ ξυνωφρυνόμενων  
 χόλον; τὰ δεσμὰ τοὺς γε σοὺς δόμους πάρα

To thine, whose doors my feet shall never enter. 950

DALILA.

Let me approach at least, to touch thy hand.

SAMSON.

Not for thy life, lest fierce remembrance wake  
My sudden rage to tear thee joint by joint.  
At distance I forgive thee, go with that ;  
Bewail thy falsehood, and the pious works  
It hath brought forth to make thee memorable,  
Among illustrious women, faithful wives.  
Cherish thy hastened widowhood with the gold  
Of matrimonial treason;—so farewell.

DALILA.

I see thou art implacable, more deaf 960  
To prayers than winds and seas ; yet winds to seas  
Are reconciled at length, and sea to shore :  
Thy anger, unappeasable, still rages,  
Eternal tempest never to be calmed.  
Why do I humble thus myself, and, suing  
For peace, reap nothing but repulse and hate,

ἐλεύθερ' ἐστίν, οὐδ' ἀμείψαιμ' ἂν ποτε.

## ΔΗΛΙΔΗ.

ἄρ' οὖν προσέλθω, τῆς τε σῆς χειρὸς θίγω; 990

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μὴ δὴ· κελεύω πρὸς σε τῆς ζωῆς τόδε·  
μὴ τῶν παλαιῶν οὔνεκ' ἀμπλακημάτων  
αἰψ' ἐξεγερθῶ, σὸν σπαραχθῆναι δέμας  
μεληδὸν αὐτως· σοὶ τὰδ' αἰνέσαι χρεών·  
πρόσω μενούση γ' οὐκ ἂν ἐγκαλοῖμ' ἔτι·  
κλαίειν σε δεῖ ψεύσασαν, ὣν τ' ἔδρας τότε  
κάρτ' εὐσεβήσας, ὥστε καὶ κλειναῖς ἐνι  
γυναιξὶ ταῖς πρὶν καὶ φιλάνδροισιν πρέπειν.  
χαίρουσ' ἂν, ᾧ \*λαβες γε τῇ μισθαρνίᾳ,  
αὐτὴ ταχύνας' εὖνιν εὐφράναις βίον. 1000

## ΔΗΛΙΔΗ.

ὁρῶ σ' ἀμείλιχόν τε κάπροσῆγορον  
λιταῖσιν, οἷά τ' οὐδὲ πρὸς πόντου σάλον  
τὰ πνεύμαθ', οἷσιν, ὥς παροίχεται χρόνος,  
εἶς, ὥς πρὸς ἀκτὴν εἰς' ἄλός, ξυναλλαγαί·  
σοὶ δυσπροσοίστῳ μαίνεται θυμὸς βίᾳ,  
χειμῶνος ὥς ἄπανστον αἰανοὺς μένος.  
ἦ γὰρ ματαίας ἱκεσίας ἀντεσχόμην·



Bid go with evil omen, and the brand  
Of infamy upon my name denounced?  
To mix with thy concernments I desist  
Henceforth, nor too much disapprove my own. 970  
Fame, if not double-faced, is double-mouthed,  
And with contrary blast proclaims most deeds;  
On both his wings, one black, the other white,  
Bears greatest names in his wild aery flight.  
My name perhaps among the circumcised,  
In Dan, in Judah, and the bordering tribes,  
To all posterity may stand defamed,  
With malediction mentioned, and the blot  
Of falsehood most unconjugal traduced.  
But in my country, where I most desire, 980  
In Ecron, Gaza, Asdod, and in Gath,  
I shall be named among the famousest  
Of women, sung at solemn festivals,  
Living and dead recorded, who, to save  
Her country from a fierce destroyer, chose  
Above the faith of wedlock-bands, my tomb

ὑβριν λαχοῦσαν καὶ στύγος μ' ἀπήλασας,  
φάτιν δύσορνον δυσκλεᾶ τ' ἐστιγμένην.

ἀφετέον οὖν σε τήν τε σὴν τύχην ἐμοί,  
καὶ δὴ περισσὸν ὦν δέδρακ' αὐτὴ ψόγον.

1010

διχόστομος γὰρ, εἴ γε μὴ διχῶς βλέπει,  
τὰ πλείστ' ἐθούξ' ἀντιπνοῖς κηρύγμασι  
φήμη, πτεροῖς διασσαῖσιν αἰωρουμένη·

τὸ τῇδε λευκῇ, θᾶτερον μελάγχμιος,  
καὶ τῶν μεγίστων ὄνόματ' ἐκφέρει δίχα·

ὥς εἰκάσαι με, τοῖσι περιτετμημένοις  
τοῖς τῇδε, κεῖ τις τῶν Ἰουδαίων ὄροις  
ἔστ' ἀγχιτέρμων, ἢ τάλαινα Δηλῆλη  
ἀπνευκτὸς ἔσται καὶ ξάγιστος εἰσαεῖ,

1020

χῶς τοὺς γάμους προδοῦσα διαβεβλημένη.

ἐν δ' οἷσιν ἔσται ταῦτά μοι μάλ' ἀσμένη,

τοῖς ἀμφὶ Γάζην, ἐν τ' Ἑκρωναίων πέδῳ,  
κατ' Ἀστοδὸν Γάθην τε, τιμία γυνή

σεμνῶς ἐρτάζουσιν ὑμνηθήσομαι,

καὶ ζῶσα καὶ θανοῦσα μὴ λήθης τυχεῖν,

ὥς αὐτ' ἔρωτος καὶ γαμηλίου λέχους

πόλιν, σέθεν πορθοῦντος ἀγρία χερσὶ,

σώσασα, τυμβόχωστον εὐδομον γάνος

With odours visited and annual flowers;  
Not less renowned than in mount Ephraim  
Jael, who with inhospitable guile  
Smote Sisera sleeping, through the temples nailed. 990  
Nor shall I count it heinous to enjoy  
The public marks of honour and reward  
Conferred upon me, for the piety  
Which to my country I was judged to have shewn.  
At this whoever envies or repines,  
I leave him to his lot, and like my own.

## CHORUS.

She is gone,—a manifest serpent by her sting,  
Discovered in the end, till now concealed.

## SAMSON.

So let her go. God sent her to debase me,  
And aggravate my folly, who committed 1000  
To such a viper his most sacred trust  
Of secrecy, my safety and my life.

## CHORUS.

Yet beauty, though injurious, hath strange power,  
After offence returning, to regain  
Love once possessed, nor can be easily  
Repulsed, without much inward passion felt,

ἀνθέων ἐτησίοισι καρποῦσθαι φοραῖς. 1030  
 οὐ γάρ τι μᾶλλον Ἡφραμιτῶν χοροὶ  
 κλήζουσ' Ἰάλην, τὴν πάλαι κακόξενον  
 ἦλοις διανταίοισιν ὑπνώσσον κάρα  
 τῷ Σισέρα τρήσασαν, ἀθεμίστῳ δόλῳ·  
 οὐδ' αἶσchr' ἔμοιγε τὰκ πόλεως ἡγήσομαι,  
 ἀλλ' ἀντίμισθα τῶν πεπραγμένων γέρα,  
 ὡς θεοσεβῆς τε καὶ πάτρας εὐεργέτις.  
 τῆς ἥς τύχης ὄναιθ', ὅς ἂν τούτων φθονοῖ,  
 ὡς αἰνεσάσης, οἷς συνεζεύχθην, ἐμοῦ. 1039

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

αὐτόδηλος ὡς δράκαινα, τῶν μάλ' εὖ κεκρυμμένων  
 εἰς τὰ νῦν κέντρων ἕκατι, φροῦδος ἐκ δόμων γυνή.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

οὐδ' ἐμοῦγ' ἄκοντός ἐστιν, ὄντιν' αἰκία τόση  
 κάρτα μῶρον ὄντ' ἐλέγξων, τήνδ' ἐπίηλεν Θεός,  
 τὴν ἔχιδναν, ἥ τὸ κρυπτὸν μοι παρηγγημένον  
 ῥύσιον γέρας παρήκα, τὸν ἐμὸν ἐκρίψας βίον.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλλ' ὅμως δεινὸν σθένουσας ἴσμεν εὐμορφον χάριν,  
 δυσμενὴ τλᾶσαν κατελθεῖν, τὸν τ' ἔρωτα τὸν πάλαι  
 ἀναφέρειν, τὸ δ' οὔτις ἀνδρῶν ῥαδίως ἂν ἐκβάλαι·

And secret sting of amorous remorse.

SAMSON.

Love-quarrels oft in pleasing concord end,  
Not wedlock-treachery endangering life.

CHORUS.

It is not virtue, wisdom, valour, wit, 1010  
Strength, comeliness of shape, or amplest merit,  
That woman's love can win or long inherit;  
But what it is, hard is to say,  
Harder to hit,  
(Which way soever men refer it)  
Much like thy riddle, Samson, in one day  
Or seven, though one should musing sit.

If any of these, or all, the Timnian bride  
Had not so soon preferred  
Thy paranymp, worthless to thee compared, 1020  
Successor in thy bed,  
Nor both so loosely disallied  
Their nuptials, nor this last so treacherously

καὶ λαθὼν, κέντρον ξύνοιδε δηξίθυμον ἰμέρου. 1049

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ζυγομαχήσασιν θαμίζουσ' ἐν φίλοις ξυναλλαγαί·  
ἕτερόν ἐστιν ἢ προδοῦσα, κὰν γάμοις ἀνδροφθόρος.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀρετὴν οὐ φημ' οὐδέ τι· ἀλκὴν,  
οὐδ' εὐτραπέλου δῶρον γλώσσης,  
οὐδ' εὐειδὲς σῶμα μεγασθενές,  
οὐδ' ὅποσον κλέος, ἦτορ δαμάσαι  
τὸ γυναικεῖον· τί δ' ἂν εἴη τοῦτ'  
εὖστοχος ἂν τις μόγις ἐξεύροι  
πάντοσ' ἐρευνῶν, εἴτε πανήμερον  
εἴθ' ἐφθήμερον, ὥς οἱ τὸ πάλαι

καλχαίνοντες

1060

τὰ σὰ δεῖν' αἰνύγματα, Σάμψων.  
τούτων γ' ἔνεκ' οὐκ εὐμαρὲς οὔτω  
τὴν νυὸν οὐκ ἦν τὴν ἀπὸ Τίμνας  
σοῦ προελέσθαι τὸν πολλὸν χεῖρω  
λέκτρων μετέχειν, τὸν παρανύμφιον·  
οὐδ' αὖ γαμικῶν ῥεῖ' ἐλύθησαν  
θεσμοὶ σπονδῶν, οὐδ' αὖ Δηλῆλη  
αἰμὺλ' ἔδρασεν, μοιρόκραντον

Had shorn the fatal harvest of thy head,  
Is it for that such outward ornament  
Was lavished on their sex, that inward gifts  
Were left for haste unfinished, judgment scant,  
Capacity not raised to apprehend  
Or value what is best  
In choice, but ofttest to affect the wrong? 1030  
Or was too much of self-love mixed,  
Of constancy no root infixed,  
That either they love nothing, or not long?  
    Whate'er it be, to wisest men and best,  
Seeming at first all heavenly under virgin veil,  
Soft, modest, meek, demure,  
Once joined, the contrary she proves, a thorn  
Intestine, far within defensive arms  
A cleaving mischief, in his way to virtue  
Adverse and turbulent; or by her charms 1040  
Draws him awry enslaved  
With dotage, and his sense depraved  
To folly and shameful deeds, which ruin ends.

τῆς σῆς κεφαλῆς κείρασα θέρος.

μῶν ὅτι μορφῆς δῶρον ἔχουσιν, 1070

χάριν ὥραίαν ἀμέγαρτον,

τά γε τῆς ψυχῆς φρόνιμ' ἐλλείπουσ'

ἀτέλεστ' ἄλλως,

τό γε βέλτιστον μὴ διακρίνειν;

νοῦς σφιν ἄωρος καὶ σμικρολόγος,

τῶν τε κακίστων

τά γε πόλλ' εἴωθεν ἔχεσθαι·

ἢ τὰ πρὸς αὐτῶν σπεύδουσι λίαν,

μηδὲ φιλοῦσαι φιλίαν τηροῦσ',

ἀργὰς φρένας ἀρρίζωτοι; 1080

ὅττι ποτ' ἦν, εἰ καὶ σοφίαν τις ἀριστεύεσκε,

δόξας δῖαν ἰδεῖν καὶ παρθενικαῖς ὀθύναισιν

αἰδῶ θ' ἐσσαμέναν καὶ κεδνὸν σχῆμα κατηφές,

γήμας εὔρε νέαν, σίνος ἔμφυτον, οὐ ποτε φυκτὸν

ὅπλων φυλακαῖς, κέντρον ἐς αἰί·

τῶν γὰρ καλῶν

ἱεμένον θορύβῳ

κωλύει, δοῦλόν τε δολορραφία παρακόπτει

αἰσχρουργεῖν δι' ἀτασθαλίας· τὰ δ' ἔκυρσεν ὀλέθρου.



What pilot so expert but needs must wreck,  
Embarked with such a steers-mate at the helm?

Favoured of Heaven, who finds  
One virtuous, rarely found,  
That in domestic good combines.  
Happy that house! his way to peace is smooth.

But virtue which breaks through all opposition, 1050  
And all temptation can remove,  
Most shines, and most is acceptable above.

Therefore God's universal law  
Gave to the man despotic power  
Over his female in due awe,  
Nor from that right to part an hour,  
Smile she or lour;  
So shall he least confusion draw  
On his whole life, not swayed  
By female usurpation, or dismayed. 1060

τοιούτου γε τυχὼν οἰακονόμου, ξυνετός περ,  
 1090 τίς ποτε ναύκληρος φύγε μὴ καταποντισθῆναι;

εὐδαίμων, ὃς κίχῃ,

καὶ σπανία τύχῃ,

εὖζυγον ἐστιοῦ-

-χον ἄλοχον ἀπειρόκακον,

εὐεστώ τ' ἄπονον·

ἀρετὰ δ' ἀντίβιον θ' ὁρμὰν

καταπαλαίουσα, καὶ

παρατροπὰς σφάλλου-

-σα, θεοῖς κάλλιστα προσάδει.

1100

πρὸς τάδ' ὁ πᾶσιν ἀνάσσω

δυσapάλλακτον διαπαντὸς

θῆκε, τὸν ἄρσενα

τᾷς θηλείας ἐν παντὶ τρόπῳ

παντοκράτορ' εἶναι·

εἴτ' εὐκολον εἶτε σύνοφρυν,

δεῖ νιν ὑποπτήσσουσαν κατέχειν·

δρῶν τόδ', ἀμώμητος

διατελέσει ζῶν,

οὐδὲ γυναικοκρα-

1110

-τούμενος ἐκδίκως

ἐν φοβερᾷ φρενί.

But had we best retire? I see a storm.

SAMSON.

Fair days have oft contracted wind and rain.

CHORUS.

But this another kind of tempest brings.

SAMSON.

Be less abstruse, my riddling days are past.

CHORUS.

Look now for no enchanting voice, nor fear  
The bait of honied words; a rougher tongue  
Draws hitherward; I know him by his stride,  
The giant Harapha of Gath, his look  
Haughty, as is his pile high-built and proud.  
Comes he in peace? what wind hath blown him hither  
I less conjecture, than when first I saw                    1071  
The sumptuous Dalila floating this way.  
His habit carries peace, his brow defiance.

SAMSON.

Or peace or not, alike to me he comes.

CHORUS.

His fraught we soon shall know, he now arrives.

ἐκποδὼν ἴωμεν ἤδη χεῖμα γὰρ προσέρχεται.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

συχνά χεῖμα, συχνά τ' ὄμβρος, εὐδίῳ ἐξ ἡμερῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

καινὸν εἶδος ἐστ' ἀέλλης, οὐδὲ τῶν εἰθισμένων.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

λεκτέον σαφέστερ' οὐκέτ' ἔστι χρησμοφδεῖν ἐμοί.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τοῖγαρ εὐλαλὸν τε γῆρυν καὶ μελιφθόγγων λόγων  
 φίλτρα νῦν μὴ προσδέχου σύ· τραχύφωνος ἐκ Γάθης  
 Ἑράφας, ὁ μακροβάμων καὶ γυγαντεῖος, πάρα,  
 ὑψίκομπος ὡς ἰδεῖν νιν, καὶ τὸ σῶμ' ὑπέρμεγας. 1120  
 ἀρά νυν ἡμῖν προσηνὴς καὶ κατ' οὖρον ἔρχεται;  
 τοῦδε μείον ἢ νεωστὶ Δηλίδης στοχάζομαι,  
 ὅτε τρυφῇ πλέουσα πολλῇ δεῦρ' ἐκαλλωπίζετο  
 τῇ στολῇ σπονδὰς φέροντος, ὄμματ' ἐς μάχην καλεῖ.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

τῶνδ' ἔμοιγ' οὐ φροντίς.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἥκει, σημανὼν ἃ βούλεται.

## HARAPHA.

I come not, Samson, to condole thy chance,  
As these perhaps, yet wish it had not been,  
Though for no friendly intent. I am of Gath,  
Men call me Harapha, of stock renowned  
As Og, or Anak, and the Emims old 1080  
That Kiriathaim held; thou knowest me now,  
If thou at all art known. Much I have heard  
Of thy prodigious might and feats performed,  
Incredible to me, in this displeased,  
That I was never present on the place  
Of those encounters, where we might have tried  
Each other's force, in camp or listed field;  
And now am come to see of whom such noise  
Hath walked about, and each limb to survey,  
If thy appearance answer loud report. 1090

## SAMSON.

The way to know were not to see but taste.

## HARAPHA.

Dost thou a'ready single me? I thought  
Gyves and the mill had tamed thee. Oh, that fortune  
Had brought me to the field, where thou art famed  
To have wrought such wonders with an ass's jaw!

## ἩΡΑΦΑΣ.

οὐ ξυνδακρύσων τῶν κακῶν ἕκατί σοι,  
 Σάμψων, πάρειμι, τοῖσιν ἐνθάδ' ἐξ ἴσου  
 ἄκοντι δὴ μοι, καίπερ οὐ φίλῳ, τᾶδε  
 ὁ γὰρ Γαθίτης ἐν βροτοῖσιν Ἡράφας  
 κλύω, γένος μὲν οἷος εἶτ' Ὀγης ποτὲ 1130  
 εἶτ' Ἡνάκης, εἶτ' Ἡμμαι παλαιίχθονες  
 οἱ περὶ Κίραιθον ὅστις εἰμ' οὐκ ἀγνοεῖς,  
 μὴ οὐκ αὐτὸς ἐν θνητοῖσιν ἀγνοούμενος.  
 ἃ μὲν σθένεις τε καὶ δέδρακας ἔξοχα  
 ἄπιστα πόλλ' ἤκουσα, τοῦτο δυσφορῶν,  
 τὸ μήποτ' αὐτὸς παρατυχεῖν, ὥστ' εἰδέναι  
 κλειστοῖς ἀγῶσιν, ὁπότερος κρείσσων μάχη.  
 ἦκω δ' ἀναθρήσων σε τὸν περίκλυτον  
 μελεῖστί, λαμπρόφωνον ἀνελέγξαι βοήν.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

τὸ δ' οὐκ ἰδὼν τις ἔμαθεν, ὃς δ' ἐγένεσάτο. 1140

## ἩΡΑΦΑΣ.

οὐκ οὖν μυλᾶνος, οὐδὲ πρὸς ἑσμῶν δαμεῖς  
 προκαλεῖ με τούτοις· ἢ μάλ' ὥφελεν Τύχη  
 ἐκεῖσέ μ' ἀγαγεῖν, οὐ σὲ τῇ σιαγόν  
 ὥπλισμένον κληΐζουσι δεῖν εἰργασμένον.

I should have felled thee soon with other arms.  
(Or left thy carcass where the ass lay thrown.  
So had the glory of prowess been recovered  
To Palestine, won by a Philistine,  
From the unforeskinned race, of whom thou bearest  
The highest name for valiant acts: that honour, 1111  
Certain to have won by mortal duel from thee.  
I lose, prevented by thy eyes put out.

SAMSON.

Boast not of what thou wouldst have done, but in  
What thou thou wouldst: thou seest it in thy hand.

HARAPHA.

To combat with a blind man I disdain,  
And thou hast need much washing to be touched.

SAMSON.

Such usage as your honourable lords  
Afford me, assassinated and betrayed;  
Who durst not with their whole united powers 1112  
In fight withstand me single and unarmed,  
Nor in the house with chamber-ambushes  
Close-headed durst attack me, no, not sleeping;  
Till they had hired a woman with their gold,  
Breaking her marriage faith, to circumvent me.

ἄλλων ἂν ὠρέξω γὰρ, εἴ γε μὴ ᾿πεςες  
 ὄνφ ξυνέκβλητός τε καὶ πατούμενος·  
 πάλιν δ' ἂν ἠρίστευσεν ἡ Φιλιστία  
 ὑπ' ἐμοῦ πολίτου, τῶν τε περιτετμημένων  
 προεῖχεν, ὧν κύδιστος ἐν κλόνοισι σύ.  
 τόδ', οὐ γ' ἂν οὐπὼς μονομαχῶν ἤμαρτον ἂν,  
 ἀπεστέρησάς μ' ὀμμάτων τητῶμενος.

1151

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μὴ δὴ τὰ μὴ δεδραμέν' ἐκφήνης λόγῳ  
 ματαιόκομπος· δεῖ δέ σ', ὥς ἔτοιμα, δρᾶν.

## ἙΡΑΦΑΣ.

οὐκ ἔστ' ἀγών μοι πρὸς τὸν ὀμματοστερῆ·  
 λουτροῦ δ' ἀθίκτων οὐδ' ἂν ἀψαίμην ἐγώ.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

τούτων δ' ἔμ' ἠξίωσαν οἱ σοὶ δεσπόται,  
 οἱ τίμιοι δὴ, τὸν παρηπατημένον,  
 οἱ καὶ ξυναθροισθέντες οὐκ ἔτλησαν ἂν  
 γυνῶ μόνῳ τ' ἔμουγ' ἀπαντῆσαι ποτε,  
 ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἐφεδρεύοντες ὑπνώσσοντί μοι  
 θαλάμων μυχοῖσι προσβαλεῖν πυκνῶ λόχῳ,  
 πρὶν δὴ γύναιόν μ' ἀργυρώνητον, γάμους·  
 ψεύσασαν, ἐκτήσαντα παρακροῦσαι δόλφ.

1160



Therefore, without feigned shifts, let be assigned  
Some narrow place enclosed, where sight may give thee,  
Or rather flight, no great advantage on me ;  
Then put on all thy gorgeous arms, thy helmet  
And brigandine of brass, thy broad habergeon, 1120  
Vant-brass and greaves, and gauntlet, add thy spear,  
A weaver's beam, and seven-times-folded shield ;  
I only with an oaken staff will meet thee,  
And raise such outcries on thy clattered iron,  
Which long shall not withhold me from thy head,  
That in a little time, while breath remains thee,  
Thou oft shalt wish thyself at Gath, to boast  
Again in safety what thou wouldst have done  
To Samson, but shalt never see Gath more.

## HARAPHA.

Thou durst not thus disparage glorious arms, 1130  
Which greatest heroes have in battle worn,  
Their ornament and safety, had not spells  
And black enchantments, some magician's art,  
Armed thee or charmed thee strong, which thou from heaven  
Feignedst at thy birth was given thee in thy hair,  
Where strength can least abide, though all thy hairs

πρὸς ταῦτ', ἕασον εὐπρεπῶν σκῆψιν λόγων·  
 ἔρκος τις ἡμῖν στενόπορον χωριζέτω,  
 ὅπου βλέπων, μᾶλλον δ' ὅπου φεύγειν ἔχων  
 ἦκιστα κερδάναις ἄν· εἴτα φαίδιμον  
 πῆληκα καὶ θώρηκα καὶ χαλκήλατον  
 χιτῶνα κνημίδας τε καὶ βραχιόνων  
 πρόβλημα χειρῖδās τε καὶ πελώριον  
 ἔγχος τὸ θ' ἐπτάβοιον εὐπηκτον σάκος  
 λάβοις ἄν· αὐτὸς δρυῖνον ἀντισχὼν ξύλον  
 πατάγω σιδηροῦν σοὶ διαβρήξω λόφον,  
 κρατὸς μάταιον ἔρυμα, καὶ Γάθης πόθον,  
 ὅσον γ' ἂν ἐξῇ διατελεῖν πνέοντά σε,  
 καὶ σφόδρ' ἐνήσω· τοῦτο δ' οὐκ ἔσται ποτὲ,  
 ἃ δρᾶν ἔμελλες ἐν Γάθῃ σε γαυριᾶν.

1170

## ἮΡΑΦΑΣ.

οὐκ ἂν σὺ τήνδε τὴν ἀγακλειτὴν στολὴν,  
 τὴν καὶ φερίστους ἀσφαλεῖ παντευχίᾳ  
 συγχὼν κεκοσμηκυῖαν, ὑβρίζειν ἔτλης,  
 εἰ μὴ σ' ἐπωδαῖς καὶ κακοῖς μαγεύμασι  
 γόης ἐθώρηξ'· ὥς δὲ σοῦ μαθεῖν πάρα,  
 γέρας τόδ' ἔσχες γενόμενος θεόσδοτον,  
 κόμαις ἐνοικοῦν, αἷς σθένους μέτεσσι δὴ

1180

Were bristles ranged like those that ridge the back  
Of chafed wild boars, or ruffled porcupines.

SAMSON.

I know no spells, use no forbidden arts ;  
My trust is in the living God, who gave me 1140  
At my nativity this strength, diffused  
No less through all my sinews, joints, and bones,  
Than thine, while I preserved these locks unshorn,  
The pledge of my unviolated vow.  
For proof hereof, if Dagon be thy God,  
Go to his temple, invoke his aid  
With solemnest devotion, spread before him  
How highly it concerns his glory now  
To frustrate and dissolve these magic spells,  
Which I to be the power of Israel's God 1150  
Avow, and challenge Dagon to the test,  
Offering to combat thee his champion bold,  
With the utmost of his godhead seconded :  
Then thou shalt see, or rather to thy sorrow

ἥκιστα πάντων, οὐδ' ἂν εἰ τριχῶν στίχας  
 ἔχοις οἷανπερ δειράδ', ὥς ἂν ἐμμανὴς  
 ὕστριξ τις, ἥ καὶ κάπρος ἡγριωμένος.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

οὐ μοι μαγέματ', οὐ τις ἄρρητος τέχνη·  
 ἐγὼ τὸν αἰέζων αἰδοῦμαι Θεόν,  
 ὃς ξύμφυτόν μοι ᾔδωκε τὸ σθένος τόδε, 1190  
 οὐδ' ἦσσον, ἥ τὸ σόν, δι' ὁστέων ῥαφάς  
 ἄρθρων τε νεῦρα διαχυθέν, ταύτην ἔως  
 ἔσωσ' ἔθειραν, ὥνπερ ὄρκον ἔμοσα  
 πίστιν βεβαίαν· σοὶ μὲν οὖν πορευτέον  
 πρὸς τὸν Δάγωνος, εἰ γέ σοι Δάγων θεός,  
 ὅπως ἐλέγξεις τοῦτο, σεμναῖσιν λιταῖς  
 ἄρωγόν ἐπικαλῶν σφε, κἀκτείνας μακρὰν  
 ὥς κάρτα δεῖ νιν ὃν κλέος τηρεῖν τανῦν,  
 λύνοντ' ἐπωδὰς τάσδε κἀπωθούμενον.  
 αἱ δ' οὐκ ἐπωδαί, τοῦ δὲ πατρώου Θεοῦ 1200  
 τοῦργον τὸ καὶ Δάγωνος ἀντειπόντος ἂν  
 δείξαίμι, τόν τ' ἀντίπαλον, ὃν προείλετο,  
 σὲ, θεὸν ἔχοντα παντελῇ παραστάτην,  
 ἴσοις ἀγῶσιν ἀνταμιλλᾶσθαι καλῶ.  
 ἰδεῖν γάρ, ἥ κλαίων ἂν αἰσθῆσθαι γ' ἔχοις,

Soon feel, whose God is strongest, thine or mine.

## HARAPHA.

Presume not on thy God. Whate'er he be  
Thee he regards not, owns not, hath cut off  
Quite from his people, and delivered up  
Into thy enemies' hand ; permitted them  
To put out both thine eyes, and fettered send thee  
Into the common prison, there to grind 1161  
Among the slaves and asses, thy comrades,  
As good for nothing else, no better service,  
With those thy boisterous locks; no worthy match  
For valour to assail, nor by the sword  
Of noble warrior, so to stain his honour,  
But by the barber's razor best subdued.

## SAMSON.

All these indignities, for such they are  
From thine, these evils I deserve and more,  
Acknowledge them from God inflicted on me 1170  
Justly, yet despair not of his final pardon,  
Whose ear is ever open, and his eye  
Gracious to re-admit the suppliant;

τὸν ἐμὲν τε τὸν σὸν θ', ὁπότερος κρείσσων, θεός.

## ἭΡΑΦΑΣ.

οὐ σοῦ Θεοῦ γ' ἕκατι σοὶ θαρσέῃν ἔδει,  
ὅς σοῦ παρημέληκεν, ὦν τ' ὥραν νέμει  
ἐνόσφισ', ἀρνεῖται τε μὴ γινῶναι πάνυ,  
καῶδωκεν αἰχμάλωτον ὀφθαλμορύχοις,  
ξὺν τοῖς τυχοῦσι δέσμιον, νωμᾶν μύλην,  
δούλων ὄνων θ' ἐταῖρον, ὡς τούτῳ μόνῳ  
τὰ νῦν ἀραρότ'· οὐδὲ βοστρύχοις ποτὲ  
βέλτιον ἂν χρήσαιο τοῖς ὑπερκόποις·  
οὐδ' ἂν τοιοῦδ' ἀγῶνος ἀνθάπτοιτό που,  
ἀνάξιον γὰρ, ἀνδρὸς ἀλκίμου δόρυ,  
τὴν εὐγένειαν ὕβρισαι· ξυροῦ δ' ἀκμῇ  
νίκης τις ἂν τύχοι ποτ' εὐπρεπεστέρας.

1210

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

εὐ μὲν ξύνοιδα τοῖσδε, καὶ τούτων ἔτι  
αἰσχίοσιν, δίκαιον ὕβρισθεῖς νόμον  
τῶν σῶν ὑπ' ἀστών, τῷ Θεῷ διακόνων·  
πάρεστι δ' ἐλπίς, ἐν δίκης καταστροφαῖς,  
κλύων τε γὰρ βλέπων τε δέξασθαι φιλεῖ  
τῶν προστροπαίων τὰς παλισσίτους λιτὰς,  
μὴ δυσπροσοίστου καμὲ τεύξεσθαι Θεοῦ.

1220

In confidence whereof I once again  
Defy thee to the trial of mortal fight,  
By combat to decide whose God is God,  
Thine, or whom I with Israel's sons adore.

HARAPHA.

Fair honour that thou dost thy God, in trusting  
He will accept thee to defend his cause,  
A murderer, a revolter, and a robber. 1180

SAMSON.

Tongue-doughty giant, how dost thou prove me these?

HARAPHA.

Is not thy nation subject to our lords?  
Their magistrates confessed it, when they took thee  
As a league-breaker, and delivered bound  
Into our hands: for hadst thou not committed  
Notorious murder on those thirty men  
At Ascalon, who never did thee harm,  
Then like a robber strippedst them of their robes?  
The Philistines, when thou hadst broke the league,  
Went up with armed powers thee only seeking, 1190  
To others did no violence nor spoil.

ὦ δὴ πεποιθὼς, δυντέροις κηρύγμασιν  
αὐτὸν κελεύω σ', ὁπότερός γ' ἔσται θεός,  
εἴτ' οὖν σὸς, εἴτ' ἐμῆς ὃς αἰσυμνᾷ χθονός,  
στερβῶς ἐλέγχειν ἐσχάτη κρίσει μάχης.

## ἮΡΑΦΑΣ.

ἡ κάρτα τιμῆς τὸν σὸν ἀξιοῖς Θεόν, 1230  
σέ νιν δοκῶν ἂν πρόμαχον αἰνέσαι ποτὲ,  
ληστήν τε παράνομόν τε καὶ μαιφόνον.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

πῶς δὴ, θρασύστομ', ὥς τὸ σῶμ' ὑπερφυῆς;

## ἮΡΑΦΑΣ.

ὑμῶν ἀνάσσουσ' οἳ γε τῇδε κοίρανοι·  
τούτῳ δὲ συμφωνοῦσιν οἱ 'ν ὑμῖν πάλαι  
ἄρχοντες, οἱ, δήσαντες, ὥστε σοῦ κρατεῖν  
ἡμῖν παρέδοσαν σ', ὃς παρὰ σπονδῶν νόμους  
ἄνδρας τριάκοντ' Ἀσκαλωνίτας, σέθεν γ'  
ἄζημίους, πάντη δὲ δημόθροον τόδε,  
ἔκτεινας, ὥς δὲ φῶρ ἐσύλησας σταλήν. 1240  
σέ δ' αὖ μετῆλθον οἱ Φιλιστῖνοι μόνον,  
ὅπλ' ἐπιφέροντες, τὸν παρεκβεβηκότα·  
αὐτοὶ δὲ λείας ὕβρεώς τ' ἀναίτιοι.



## SAMSON.

Among the daughters of the Philistines  
I chose a wife, which argued me no foe ;  
And in your city held my nuptial feast.  
But your ill-meaning politician lords,  
Under pretence of bridal friends and guests,  
Appointed to await me thirty spies,  
Who, threatening cruel death, constrained the bride  
To wring from me, and tell to them, my secret,  
That solved the riddle which I had proposed. 1200  
When I perceived all set on enmity.  
As on my enemies, wherever chanced,  
I used hostility, and took their spoil,  
To pay my underminers in their coin.  
My nation was subjected to your lords—  
It was the force of conquest ; force with force  
Is well ejected when the conquered can.  
But I, a private person, whom my country  
As a league-breaker gave up bound, presumed  
Single rebellion, and did hostile acts— 1210  
I was no private, but a person raised,  
With strength sufficient, and command from Heaven,  
To free my country ; if their servile minds

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἐχθρὸς μὲν οὐκ ἦ, τῶν Φιλιστίνων χθονὶ  
 δάμαρθ' ἐλόμενος, κὰν γάμοις ἐορτάσας·  
 ὑμῶν δ' ἄνακτες κακοφρονούντες αἰμύλοι  
 ἔμοιγ' ἐνέδρας ᾗς λέγεις ἐσκεύασαν·  
 οὗτοι δ' ἀπειλαῖς ἐβιάσαντο τὴν νυδὸν  
 ὥς σφε κτανεῖν ἔμελλον, ἐκμαθεῖν ἐμοῦ  
 κρυπτὸν σόφισμα καὶ λύσεις αἰνιγμάτων· 1250  
 αὐτοῖσι δ', ἐκμαθοῦσα, διέδωκεν τόδε·  
 ἔχθραν δ' ἰδὼν μοι πάντα μηχανώμενον,  
 αὐτὸς τὸν αἰεὶ παρατυχόνθ' ἡγούμενος  
 ἐχθρὸν, τὰ κείνων σκύλ' ἀφειλόμην ἐγὼ,  
 ἰσόσταθμ' ἔλκων, τοὺς τε δρῶντας ἀντιδρῶν.  
 βία δὲ τὰμὰ τοῖσι σοῖσιν ὑπετάγη·  
 θέμις τὸν ἥσσω τοῦ κρατήσαντος κρατεῖν,  
 καιροῦ τυχόντα· τοῖσδε δ' εἴ τις ἀντερεῖ,  
 ὀθοῦνέκ' ἰδιώτην με καὶ σπονδῶν παρέξ  
 καὶ χωρὶς ἄλλων εἰς στάσιν πεπτωκότα 1260  
 δεσμοῖς πολῖται, πολέμιόν τε, παρέδωσαν—  
 ἀλλ' οὐ τοιοῦτός εἰμι, θεόδοτος δ' ἀνὴρ  
 σθένων τε θεῖον, τὴν πάτραν ἐλευθεροῦν·  
 κεῖ δούλιον τὸ λῆμα, μῆδ' ἐσταλμένον

Me their deliverer sent would not receive,  
But to their masters gave me up for nought,  
The unworthier they; whence to this day they serve.  
I was to do my part from Heaven assigned,  
And had performed it, if my known offence  
Had not disabled me, not all your force.  
These shifts refuted, answer thy appellant, 1220  
Though by his blindness maimed for high attempts,  
Who now defies thee thrice to single fight,  
As a petty enterprise of small enforce.

HARAPHA.

With thee, a man condemned, a slave enrolled,  
Due by the law to capital punishment?  
To fight with thee no man of arms will deign.

SAMSON.

Cam'st thou for this, vain boaster, to survey me,  
To descant on my strength, and give thy verdict?  
Come nearer, part not hence so slight informed,  
But take good heed my hand survey not thee. 1230

HARAPHA,

O Baal-zebul! can my ears unused

ῥυτῆρ' ἐδέξαντ', ἀντιδόντες οὐδενὸς  
 τοῖς δεσποταῖσιν, αἰτίους μᾶλλον τις ἂν  
 ὀρθῶς, τὸ θ' ἐξῆς κεῖς τὰ νῦν δούλους λέγοι.  
 ἔδει με κραίνειν τὰκ Θεοῦ προστάγματα,  
 οὐδ' ἂν τι τῶνδ' ἤμαρτον· οὐδ' ἐχθρῶν βία  
 ἔπταισα δ' ὦδ' αὐτουργός· ἐν προῦπτῳ τόδε. 1270  
 ταῖσδ' οὖν ἐλεγχθεῖς μὴ παρεξελθεῖν τέχναις,  
 τούτῳ φράσαι· ἂν πῶς ἂν ἀντεῖποις ἔτι,  
 τυφλῷ τε, μήτ' ἔχοντι γενναῖόν τινα  
 ἀγῶνα τολμᾶν, ἀλλ' ὅμως τρίταις βοαῖς  
 προκαλουμένῳ σ' ἐς μονομάχων δῆριν χερῶν·  
 φλαῦρ' ἐστὶ ταῦτα, καὶ μάλ' εὐτελεῖ ποιεῖν.

## ἙΡΑΦΑΣ.

σὲ ζημιωθένθ' ὥστε καὶ δοῦλον θανεῖν  
 οὐκ ἔσθ' ὀπλίτης ὃς μάχης ἂν ἀξιοῖ.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ὥς οἷν θεωρήσων με, καὶ μακρῷ λόγῳ  
 ὁποῖός εἰμι ψηφίων, ὑψήγορος 1280  
 ἦλθες; πελάζειν δεῖ σε, καὶ σκεθρῶς σκοπεῖν.  
 ὅρα δὲ μή σε διὰ χερῶν αὐτὸς σκοπῶ.

## ἙΡΑΦΑΣ.

φεῦ τοῦ πατρώου τῆσδε τῆς χώρας θεοῦ.

Hear these dishonours, and not render death?

SAMSON.

No man withholds thee, nothing from thy hand  
Fear I incurable. Bring up thy van;  
My heels are fettered, but my fist is free.

HARAPHA.

This insolence other kind of answer fits.

SAMSON.

Go, baffled coward! lest I run upon thee,  
Though in these chains, bulk without spirit vast,  
And with one buffet lay thy structure low,  
Or swing thee in the air, then dash thee down, 1240  
To the hazard of thy brains and shattered sides.

HARAPHA.

By Astaroth, ere long thou shalt lament  
These braveries, in irons loaden on thee.

CHORUS.

His giantship is gone somewhat crest-fallen,  
Stalking with less unconscionable strides,  
And lower looks, but in a sultry chafe.

SAMSON.

I dread him not, nor all his giant brood,

πῶς ὧδ' ὄνειδίσαντά μ' οὐκ εἰωθότα  
οὐκ ἂν δίκαιον ἀντιτισαίμην μίρον;

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἀλλ' οὐ τίς ἐσθ' ὅς δρᾶν σ' ἀπεννέπει τόδε.  
οὐδ' ἂν ἄγῃς κράτιστά μ' ἐκφοβεῖν ἔχει,  
πόδας δεθέντα, τῷ δὲ χεῖρ' ἐλεύθερον.

ἭΡΑΦΑΣ.

ἔργοισι τοιάδ', οὐ λόγοισι, δεκτέον.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἔρρ' οὖν ἄπρακτος, ὄγκος ἄψυχος μέγας, 1290  
δείλαιε, μή σε καὶ πέδαισι δέσμιος  
ἄπαξ πατάξας ἐπιδραμὼν χαμαὶ βάλω,  
ἢ καὶ στροβούμενόν τε καὶ μετάρσιον  
πλευραῖσι καταράξας σε συνθραύσω κάρα.

ἭΡΑΦΑΣ.

κλαίοις ἂν, εἰ κλύουσί μου θεοὶ, τάδ' οἷς  
ἐμπερπερεῖν, δυσλύτοις χαλκεύμασι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἰδεῖν ταπεινός, μέλοσιν θ' ὀρμαῖς ποδῶν,  
δεινὸν χολωθεῖς, ἐπτάπηχυν, οἷχεται.

ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ὁ δ' οὐκ ἔμοιγ', οὐδ' ἢ γιγαντεία σπορά

Though fame divulged him father of five sons  
All of gigantic size, Goliath chief.

CHORUS.

He will directly to the lords, I fear, 1250  
And with malicious counsel stir them up  
Some way or other yet further to afflict thee.

SAMSON.

He must allege some cause, and offered fight  
Will not dare mention, lest a question rise  
Whether he durst accept the offer or not ;  
And that he durst not plain enough appeared.  
Much more affliction than already felt  
They cannot well impose, nor I sustain ;  
If they intend advantage of my labours,  
The work of many hands, which earns my keeping,  
With no small profit daily to my owners. 1261  
But, come what will, my deadliest foe will prove  
My speediest friend, by death to rid me hence ;  
The worst that he can give, to me the best.  
Yet so it may fall out, because their end  
Is hate, not help to me, it may with mine  
Draw their own ruin who attempt the deed.

δεινὴ πέφυκε, καίπερ ἔκτος αὐτὸς ὦν,  
ὥς δὴ φατίζουσ', ἐν δὲ πρωτεύων Γόλας.

1300

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

δέδοικα μὴ πρὸς κοιράνους φθάσῃ μολῶν,  
σὲ δὴ παραινέσων νιν αἰμύλῳ λόγῳ  
ποῖω τρόπῳ δράσουσι καὶ πλείω κακά.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

δεὸν δέ νιν σκῆψίν τιν' ἐξευρεῖν, μάχην  
οὐκ ἂν τι σημύνειε τὴν προκειμένην,  
ὥς τοῖς ἀνιστοροῦσι μὴ φράζειν ἔχων  
πῶς ἐκβέβηκε, δῆλος ὦν ὑπεκφυγών.  
μόλις δ' ἂν αἰτοὶ τῶν γε νῦν πλείω πάθη  
ἐπεισφέρουεν, οὐδ' ἄρ' ἂν τλαίην ἐγώ,  
μέλλων γε ταῦτα διατελεῖν πονούμενος  
τά γ' ἀντὶ πολλῶν ἐργατῶν χειρουργίας  
τιμώμεν', ὥστε τῆς καθ' ἡμέραν τροφῆς  
τοὺς δεσπότας μου πλέον ἀπαύρασθαι πολύ.  
ἐγὼ δ', ἐκείνῳ ξυντυχὼν ὃς ἂν διδῶ  
θάνατον τάχιστα, φίλτατον προσδέξομαι·  
ἄριστα μοι τᾶχθιστα· συμβαίῃ δέ τῳ  
τάχ' ἂν, κατ' ἄλλων μηχανωμένῳ δῦας,  
αὐτὸν τυχεῖν ποθ' ὦν ἔπρασσ' αὐτὸς κακῶν.

1310



## CHORUS.

Oh how comely it is, and how reviving  
To the spirits of just men long oppressed,  
When God into the hands of their deliverer 1270  
Puts invincible might,  
To quell the mighty of the earth, the oppressor,  
The brute and boisterous force of violent men,  
Hardy and industrious to support  
Tyrannic power, but raging to pursue  
The righteous, and all such as honour truth!  
He all their ammunition  
And feats of war defeats,  
With plain heroic magnitude of mind  
And celestial vigour armed, 1280  
Their armouries and magazines contemns,  
Renders them useless; while  
With winged expedition,  
Swift as the lightning glance, he executes

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

κάλλιστα, πιεζομέ- 1320  
 -νοις χρονησθείση βία  
 οὐκ ἀδίκουσιν, πρόμαχον ἔ-  
 -δωκεν Θεὸς ἀστυφέλικτον,  
 ψυχὰς παραθέλγων,  
 τὸν ὑπερφίαλον κρατύνοντ'  
 ἀνδρῶν κατέχειν, τρόπον  
 θηρὸς τοῦ θορύβῳ μανέντα  
 ἀψευδῶν κάτα καὶ δικαίων,  
 τὰ τυραννίδος ἔκνομα  
 αὐξάνειν σπεύδοντ' ἄγαν. 1330  
 τοῖος ἀρωγὸς πολεμικῶν  
 σκευῶν τ' ἔργων θ' ὑπερέσχευ'  
 μεγάλῳ ψυχῷ γὰρ  
 θυμὸν τ' ἀφελῆς ἅθ' ἥρως,  
 ἱν' ἀθάνατον σθένων,  
 θήκας ὀπλοφόρους παρ' οὐδὲν  
 ἀχρείους ἔθετ'· ἐν δὲ τούτῳ  
 οἷον φλογῶπες ἀστραπαί,  
 ὠκυπτέροις βρυλεύμασι

His errand on the wicked, who surprised  
Lose their defence, distracted and amazed.

But patience is more oft the exercise  
Of Saints, the trial of their fortitude,  
Making them each his own deliverer,  
And victor over all 1290  
That tyranny or fortune can inflict.  
Either of these is in thy lot,  
Samson, with might endued  
Above the sons of men ; but sight bereaved  
May chance to number thee with those  
Whom patience finally must crown.

This idol's day hath been to thee no day of rest,  
Labouring thy mind  
More than the working day thy hands.  
And yet perhaps more trouble is behind ; 1300  
For I descry this way  
Some other tending : in his hand  
A sceptre or quaint staff he bears,

τοὺς ἀμπλακόντας  
 1340 ἀδημονούντας ἀνεκφεύκτους  
 τὸ τεταγμένον οἱ θεήλατον δρᾶ.  
 θαμὰ δὲ βάσανος ὅσιον ἐλοῦσ'  
 ἄνδρα τινα, δοκιμάσασα τὸ  
 ταλασίφρον νιν, τὸ λυπεῖσθαι λέγω,  
 σωτῆρ' αὐτὸν ἑαυτῷ παρέχει  
 τύχας ἅπ' ἣ τυράννων  
 σοὶ τῇδ' ἂν ἦν καὶ θατέρῳ,  
 ὑπὲρ βροτοὺς ἐρρώμένῳ,  
 Σάμψων· σὺ δ' ὄσσων  
 1350 βλάβαις λάχοις ἐνὶ τούτοις ἂν  
 οἷσι στέφανος τὸ καρτερῆσαι.  
 φρενὶ δὲ πολύπονον ἀμέραν  
 πολύθυτον ἔλαχες, ὥς τόσον  
 χερσὶν οὐπάποτ' ἠντληκας μόγον·  
 ἔτι δ' ἐκ τούτων, ὥς μὲν ἔοικεν,  
 κάκ' ἂν γένοιτο μεῖζω.  
 καὶ γάρ τιν' ἄλλον δεῦρο πορευόμενον  
 λεύσσω, ποδῶν λαιψηροδρόμοις μελέταις  
 σπερχθέντ' ἰδεῖν, καὶ  
 1360 σκῆπτρόν τι νωμῶντα δαίδαλον.

Comes on amain, speed in his look.  
By his habit I discern him now  
A public officer, and now at hand.  
His message will be short and voluble.

OFFICER.

Hebrews, the prisoner Samson here I seek.

CHORUS.

His manacles remark him, there he sits.

OFFICER.

Samson, to thee our lords thus bid me say :                   1310  
This day to Dagon is a solemn feast,  
With sacrifices, triumph, pomp, and games :  
Thy strength they know surpassing human rate,  
And now some public proof thereof require  
To honour this great feast, and great assembly.  
Rise therefore with all speed, and come along,  
Where I will see thee heartened and fresh clad,  
To appear as fits before the illustrious lords.

SAMSON.

Thou knowest I am a Hebrew, therefore tell them,  
Our law forbids at their religious rites                   1320  
My presence ; for that cause I cannot come.

ὅστις ποτ' ἐστὶ, σχῆμ' ἐσιδὼν ἔμαθον,  
 ὥς γὰρ παρόντος αἰδῶ.  
 τῶν ἐν τέλει μοι φαίνεται, καὶ σύντομος  
 ῥήματα καὶ ταχύφωνος ἔσται.

## ΚΗΡΤΞ.

ἦκω τὸν αἰχμάλωτον, Ἑβραῖοι, μέτα.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἐκεῖ σφὲ θάσσοντ' ἔστι δεσμώτην τ' ἰδεῖν.

## ΚΗΡΤΞ.

ἄνακτες ἀγγέλλουσί σοι, Σάμψων, τάδε·  
 Δάγωνι μὲν θύουσι τῇδ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ,  
 ἀγῶσι δ' εὐπόμπῃ τε καυχῶνται χαρᾷ· 1370  
 καὶ δὴ μαθόντες σ' οὐ κατ' ἀνθρώπου μέτρον  
 σθένοντα, φανερὸν τοῦδε τάσσουσιν τέκμαρ,  
 ἄγαλμ' ἑορτῇ, τῇ τε νῦν πανηγύρει.  
 ἄγ' οὖν, ἐγερθεὶς ἄοκνος, ὥς σ' ἂν εὐσταλῇ  
 φαιδρόν τε δείξω τοῖσι κοιράνοις, ἔπου.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

Ἑβραῖός εἰμι, τοῦτο γὰρ σάφ' οἶσθα ὅτ'  
 πρὸς ταῦτα μηδ' ἔχειν με πατρώφ νόμῳ  
 ἱεροῖς παρεῖναι τῶν σε πεμφάντων, φράσων.

OFFICER.

This answer, be assured, will not content them.

SAMSON.

Have they not sword-players, and every sort  
Of gymnastic artists, wrestlers, riders, runners,  
Jugglers and dancers, antics, mummers, mimics,  
But they must pick me out, with shackles tired,  
And over-laboured at their public mill,  
To make them sport with blind activity?  
Do they not seek occasion of new quarrels  
On my refusal to distress me more,  
Or make a game of my calamities?  
Return the way thou cam'st, I will not come.

1330

OFFICER.

Regard thyself; this will offend them highly.

SAMSON.

Myself? my conscience and internal peace.  
Can they think me so broken, so debased  
With corporal servitude, that my mind ever  
Will condescend to such absurd commands?  
Although their drudge, to be their fool or jester,

## ΚΗΡΤΞ.

ἀλλ' ἴσθι μὴ μέλλοντας αἰνέσειν τάδε.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

οὐκ οὖν ὑπάρχουσ' οἱ ξιφῶν εὖ τ' εἰδότες, 1380  
 κωμωδολοιχοῦντές τε καὶ πάλης ἴδρεις,  
 δρομεῖς ξὺν ὀρχησταῖσιν, ἵπποβάμονες,  
 γυμναστικοὶ μῖμοί τε, παντοῖον γένος;  
 τί δεῖ νιν ἐν μυλῶνι δεσμοῖς τ' ἐμὲ  
 πόνοις ἀπειπόντ' ἐκκριθέντα δεικνύναι,  
 ἄθλοισι γελωτοποιὸν ὧδ' ἀνόμματον;  
 ζητοῦσ' ἀφορμὰς τοῦ πάλιν διχοστατεῖν,  
 ἐμ' οἷα μὴ κλίνοντα πημαίνειν πλέον,  
 κακοῖς ἐφυβρίζοντες· ἀλλ' ἄπελθε σὺ,  
 ἦ καὶ προσῆλθες· οὐκ ἐμοὶ πορευτέον. 1390

## ΚΗΡΤΞ.

σαντοῦ προκήδου· κάρθ' ὑβριστικὸν τόδε.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἐμοῦγ'· ἐπεὶ ξύνοῖδα τᾶλυπον φρονῶν.  
 ἄρ' οὐχὶ πάντως ταῖσι τῶν μελῶν δύαις  
 κατεαγόθ' ἡγοῦνταί με κάπεφθαρμένον,  
 τοίω·ν ἐφετμῶν ἀτοπία μ' ὑπείκαθεῖν;  
 αἰσχρόν με, πρὸς τῷ δουλίῳ πόνῳ κυρεῖν,



And, in my midst of sorrow and heart-grief,  
To shew them feats, and play before their god, 1340  
The worst of all indignities, yet on me  
Joined with extreme contempt? I will not come.

OFFICER.

My message was imposed on me with speed,  
Brooks no delay. Is this thy resolution?

SAMSON.

So take it with what speed thy message needs.

OFFICER.

I am sorry what this stoutness will produce.

SAMSON.

Perhaps thou shalt have cause to sorrow indeed.

CHORUS.

Consider, Samson; matters now are strained  
Up to the highth, whether to hold or break.  
He's gone, and who knows how he may report 1350  
Thy words by adding fuel to the flame?  
Expect another message more imperious,  
More lordly thundering than thou well wilt bear.

SAMSON.

Shall I abuse this consecrated gift

σκώπτοντα καὶ βωμόλογον ὥς ἀθύρμασι  
παίζειν ἔναντα τοῦδε τοῦ τούτων θεοῦ,  
καὶ ταῦτ' ἄπαστον καρδίας τρέφοντ' ἄχος.  
λίαν με καταφρονοῦσιν· οὐ πορεύσομαι.

1400

## ΚΗΡΤΞ.

οὐ με σχολάζειν οἱ ἑπιτρέψαντες τάδε  
ἔταξαν· ἀρ' οὖν σοὶ δεδογμένον λέγεις;

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

δεδογμένον· τάχυνε δ', εἰ τάχους σε δεῖ.

## ΚΗΡΤΞ.

ἄκοντί μοί γ', ἃ τοῦδ' ἂν ἐκβαίῃ θράσους.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἄκοντί γ' ἔσται, παρὰ τὸ προσδοκώμενον.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

μέμνησο, Σάμψων, ὥς ἐπ' ἔσχατον τάδε,  
εἴτ' οὖν φυλάξων εἴτε μὴ, τείνας ἔχεις.  
τίς οἶδ', ἀπελθὼν ὅδε σ' ἀπαγγελεῖ τίνα  
λόγον φράσαντα, προστιθεὶς ὕλην φλογί;  
ἄλλην ἄφυκτον, ὥς ἀφ' ὑψηλοφρόνων,  
βαρύκτυπὸν τε προσδέχου τιν' ἐντολήν.

1410

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

μή μοι γένοιτο, τῶν κομῶν ὁμόστολον

Of strength, again returning with my hair,  
After my great transgression? so requite  
Favour renewed, and add a greater sin  
By prostituting holy things to idols,  
A Nazarite, in place abominable,  
Vaunting my strength in honour to their Dagon? 1360  
Besides how vile, contemptible, ridiculous,  
What act more execrably unclean, profane?

CHORUS.

Yet with this strength thou serv'st the Philistines,  
Idolatrous, uncircumcised, unclean.

SAMSON.

Not in their idol-worship, but by labour  
Honest and lawful to deserve my food  
Of those who have me in their civil power.

CHORUS.

Where the heart joins not, outward acts defile not.

SAMSON.

Where outward force constrains, the sentence holds.  
But who constrains me to the temple of Dagon, 1370  
Not dragging? the Philistian lords command—  
Commands are no constraints. If I obey them,

γέρας τόδ' ἱερὸν ἀναλαμβάνοντα τοῦ κράτους,  
 ὃ σφόδρ' ἁμαρτῶν ὤλεσ', ἡμπολημένον  
 ῥῖψαι, χάριν τίσαντα πλείοσιν βλαβαῖς,  
 τιμῶντα τούτους, ὡς θεοὺς, τοὺς οὐδένας.  
 οὐ δὴ πρέπει με γαυριᾶν, σθένοντά περ,  
 Δάγωνι Ναζωραῖον, ἐν στυγνῷ τόπῳ.  
 οὐδ' ἔσθ' ὅπως δράσαιμ' ἂν αἰσχίῳ τινα  
 τὸν Θεόν, ἄτιμος καὶ κατὰπτυστος βροτοῖς. 1420

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τοιούτος ὢν, σὺ τοῖς Φιλιστίνοις λάτρεις,  
 ἀθέοις ἀπεριτμήτοις τε καὶ δυσωνύμοις.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

τὸ δ' οὐχὶ θρησκείας ποτ', ἀλλ' ἵν' ἐννόμου  
 ἔχοιμ' ἔδωδὴν ἀντὶ χειρωναξίας  
 τοῖς ὡς μετοίκου δεσπόταις κρατοῦσί μου.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τὸ λήμ' ἀθῶος, οὐδὲ δρῶν ἁμαρτάνεις.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ὀρθῶς, ἀνάγκαις περιπεσὼν ἄλλων βία.  
 ἰέναι δὲ τόνδ' εἰς ναὸν οὐτὶν' ἔστ' ἰδεῖν  
 ὅστις μ' ἂν, ἔλκειν μὴ οὐ θέλων, ἀναγκάσαι.  
 ἐπεὶ κελεύματ' ἐστὶν, οὐ βία, τάδε, 1430

I do it freely, venturing to displease  
God for the fear of man, and man prefer;  
Set God behind; which, in his jealousy,  
Shall never, unrepented, find forgiveness.  
Yet that he may dispense with me, or thee,  
Present in temples at idolatrous rites,  
For some important cause, thou need'st not doubt.

## CHORUS.

How thou wilt here come off surmounts my reach. 1380

## SAMSON.

Be of good courage; I begin to feel  
Some rousing motions in me, which dispose  
To something extraordinary my thoughts.  
I with this messenger will go along,  
Nothing to do, be sure, that may dishonour  
Our law, or stain my vow of Nazarite.  
If there be aught of presage in the mind,  
This day will be remarkable in my life  
By some great act, or of my days the last.

## CHORUS.

In time thou hast resolved; the man returns. 1390

## OFFICER.

Samson, this second message from our lords

ταγοῖς ἂν εἶην τοῖς Φιλιστίνοις ἐκὼν  
 ὑπήκοος, βροτούς τε τοῦ Θεοῦ προθεῖς,  
 βροτῶν φόβῳ, Θεῷ τε μισητὸς γεγώς·  
 ἐν κάρτ' ἂν ἐκπράξαντα μὴ λυθὲν χρέος  
 ἐγῶδα, καίπερ εὖ πεπεισμένος τινὶ  
 ἱεροῖς πάροντι τοῖς βεβήλοισιν Θεὸν  
 ξυγγνώμον' εἶναι, καιρίου τινὸς χάριν.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

πῶς δὴ φυγὴν εὖροις ἂν, οὐκ ἔχω φράσαι.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

θάρσει· νέον γὰρ ἐννοῶν ξύνοιδά τι  
 καὶ δεινόν, ἔργων φροίμῃ οὐκ εἰωθότων. 1440  
 ὁπαδὸς εἰμι τῷδε τῷ κακαγγέλῳ,  
 οὐδὲν ποιήσων τοῖς νόμοις ἐναντίον,  
 σαφὲς τόδ', οὐδ' ἄρ' οἶσιν ὥμοσ' ἀπρεπές·  
 εἰ δ' ὀρθόμαντιν ἐν φρεσὶν γνώμην τρέφω,  
 κλέος περισσὸν σήμερον κιχήσομαι  
 λαμπρόν τι δράσας, εἰ δὲ μὴ, μόρου τέλος.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

καιρὸν δέδοκται· τόνδ' ὀρώ παλίσσυτον.

## ΚΗΡΤΞ.

Σάμψων, ἄνακτες δεύτερ' ἀγγέλλουσί σοι·

To thee I am bid say. Art thou our slave,  
Our captive, at the public mill our drudge,  
And darest thou at our sending and command  
Dispute thy coming? Come without delay;  
Or we shall find such engines to assail  
And hamper thee, as thou shalt come of force,  
Though thou wert firmlier fastened than a rock.

## SAMSON.

I could be well content to try their art,  
Which to no few of them would prove pernicious. 1400  
Yet, knowing their advantages too many,  
Because they shall not trail me through their streets  
Like a wild-beast, I am content to go.  
Masters' commands come with a power resistless  
To such as owe them absolute subjection;  
And for a life who will not change his purpose?  
So mutable are all the ways of men.—  
Yet this be sure, in nothing to comply  
Scandalous or forbidden in our law.

## OFFICER.

I praise thy resolution. Doff these links.

1410

ἄρ' οὐχὶ δοῦλος, οὐχὶ δοριάλωτος εἶ,  
 μυλῶνα καὶ δημόσιον ἐκτρίβων κόπον; 1450  
 πῶς οὐ προσήλθες, τὸν πρὶν αἰδεσθεὶς λόγον;  
 ἀλλ' ἴσθι, μή γ' ἐλθόντος ἐν τάχει σέθεν,  
 ἡμᾶς τοιῶνδε μηχανῶν τεχνάσματα  
 καὶ δέσμ' ἂν ἐξευρόντας, ὥστε καὶ βίᾳ  
 ἄγειν σε, καίπερ ὥς πέτραι πεπηγότα.

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ἐμοὶ μὲν ἀγὼν ἀσμένῳ, σάφ' εἰδότε  
 πολλοῖς ὀδύρματ' ἐσόμεν', οἷ' ἐκβήσεται  
 ἀλλ', οὐ γὰρ ἐλκεθμοῖσιν ἀγρίου τρόπον  
 θηρός σφε δεῖ με περιάγειν πόλιν κάτω,  
 τύχης ῥοπῇ κρατοῦντας, οὐκ ἀρνήσομαι 1460  
 ἡμᾶς ἀμήχανον γὰρ ἐστὶν ἀντέχειν  
 τοῖς δεσπόταισι τοὺς τὸ πᾶν ὑπηκόους.  
 πολλαὶ μὲν εἰσιν ἐν βροτοῖς περιστροφαί·  
 χαίρων δὲ πᾶς τις, χῶν βεβούλευται ποιεῖν  
 τὸ ζῆν ἂν ἀντηλλάξατ'· ἐν δὲ τῷ κλύειν  
 τῶν σῶν, ἐπίστω μηδὲν ἐνδῶσοντά με,  
 μήτ' αἰσχροῖ, μήτ' ἐναντὶ Ἑβραίων νόμοις.

## ΚΗΡΤΞ.

τῷ δέσμ', αὐτ' ὀρθόβουλος, ἐκδύου τάδε·



By this compliance thou wilt win the lords  
To favour, and perhaps to set thee free.

SAMSON.

Brethren, farewell. Your company along  
I will not wish, lest it perhaps offend them  
To see me girt with friends; and how the sight  
Of me, as of a common enemy,  
So dreaded once, may now exasperate them,  
I know not. Lords are lordliest in their wine;  
And the well-feasted priest then soonest fired  
With zeal, if aught religion seem concerned: 1420  
No less the people, on their holy-days,  
Impetuous, insolent, unquenchable.  
Happen what may, of me expect to hear  
Nothing dishonourable, impure, unworthy  
Our God, our law, my nation, or myself;  
The last of me or no I cannot warrant.

CHORUS,

Go, and the Holy One  
Of Israel be thy guide,

σὺ ταῦτα ταῖς ἀρχαῖσιν, εὐνοίας τυχεῖν,  
 ῥέξαις ἂν, ἧ καὶ τῶνδε τῶν πεδῶν λύσιν. 1470

## ΣΑΜΨΩΝ.

ὕμεις μὲν ἤδη χαίρετ'· οὐ τι τῆς ὁδοῦ  
 ἐμοῦ γ' ἐκόντος ξυμμετάσχοιτ' ἂν, φίλοι·  
 ἐχθροῖς ἀηδὴς ἦδε μοι παρουσία·  
 ἴσως δ' ἂν, εἰσορῶντες ὃν κοινὸν πάλαι  
 ἐχθρόν σφιν ἡγήσαντ', ἀκραχόλῳ μένει  
 ζέσειαν· εὐ γὰρ οἶνοσπλήγας ἔστι τῷ  
 γνῶναι τυράννους ὡς τυραννικότατοι·  
 ὡς καὶ θυτῆρες οἱ κορεσθέντες βορᾶς  
 μάλιστα δὴ σπεύδουσιν ὧν θεοῖς μέλει·  
 χῶ δῆμος, ἔργων τῶν καθ' ἡμέραν λυθεῖς, 1480  
 ἀχάλινος ἄσβεστός τε κάσελγῆς ἄγαν.  
 ὅποι' ἂν οὖν τύχῃ ποτ', οὐκ ἀκούσομαι  
 οὐδέν τι δράσας οὔτ' ἀεικὲς οὐδαμῶς,  
 οὔτ' αὖ Θεοῦ τε τοῦ τε πατρῴου νόμου,  
 ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἐμαντοῦ τοῦ γένους τ', ἀνάξιον·  
 ἄδελος, εἴτε τᾶσχατ', εἴτε μῆ, λαχών.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τῇνδε κέλευθον σοὶ ἔερχομένῳ,  
 Δαίμων Πάτριος ἡγεμονεύει,

To what may serve his glory best, and spread his name  
Great among the Heathen round ; 1430

Send thee the Angel of thy birth, to stand  
Fast by thy side, who from thy father's field  
Rode up in flames, after his message told  
Of thy conception, and be now a shield  
Of fire ; that Spirit, that first rushed on thee  
In the camp of Dan,

Be efficacious in thee now at need,  
For never was from Heaven imparted  
Measure of strength so great to mortal seed,  
As in thy wondrous actions hath been seen. 1440

But wherefore comes old Manoah in such haste  
With youthful steps ? much livelier than ere while  
He seems ; supposing here to find his son,  
Or of him bringing to us some glad news ?

MANOAH.

Peace with you, brethren. My inducement hither  
Was not at present here to find my son,  
By order of the lords new parted hence

τὰ μάλιστ' αὐτοῦ κῦδος ἀέξειν  
τοῖσι παροίκοις ἀμφιβόητον.

1490

καὶ μὴν ἄγγελος ὅς σε γενέθλιος  
ἀμφιβέβηκεν, παρὰ νῦν σταίη,

σάκος ἀμφιβαλὼν φλογοειδὲς,  
σὴν ὃς γένεσιν πάλαι ἀγγείλας  
σῆς πατρίας ἀπὸ γῆς ἐπανήλθεν,

τέρας ἀμφαίνων πυριφεγγές.  
καίριον ἔλθοι τό ποθ' ὄπλοφόρῳ  
πνεῦμά σοι ἔμφυτον· ὡς οὐπώποτε

θνητῶν ὅπόσοι θεοποιήτων  
ῥώμην ἔπρεπον, ἠρίστευσαν

1500

θαύμασιν ἔργων

οἷά σε δράσαντ' ἐσορῶμεν.

ἀλλὰ πῶς; Μάνως γεραιὸς ἔρχεται σπουδῇ ποδῶν,  
παρὰ δὲ τὸν χρόνον γε τὸν πρὶν κούρος ὥς ἀγάλλεται·  
υἱὸν, ὥς ἐπεικάσαι γέ μ', ἐνθάδ' ἐλπίζων κιχεῖν,  
εἴτ' ἄρ' οὖν εὐάγγελος μάλ' ἥσπερ εἴληχεν τύχης.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

εὐδαιμονοίητ', ὦ φίλοι· τὸν υἱὸν οὐχ  
ἦκω ματεύων, ὃς κελευσάντων ἔβη  
τῶν κοιράνων, ὥς παιγνίαν αὐτοῖς πόροι

To come and play before them at their feast.  
I heard all as I came, the city rings,  
And numbers thither flock ; I had no will, 1450  
Lest I should see him forced to things unseemly.  
But that which moved my coming now was chiefly  
To give ye part with me what hope I have  
With good success to work his liberty.

## CHORUS.

That hope would much rejoice us to partake  
With thee. Say, reverend Sire ; we thirst to hear.

## MANOAH.

I have attempted one by one the lords,  
Either at home, or through the high-street passing,  
With supplication prone and father's tears,  
To accept of ransom for my son their prisoner. 1460  
Some much averse I found, and wondrous harsh,  
Contemptuous, proud, set on revenge and spite ;  
That part most revered Dagon and his priests :  
Others more moderate seeming, but their aim

ἐν ταῖς ἑορταῖς· πάντα δ' ἦν ἐμοὶ μαθεῖν 1510  
 ἔρποντι, τὴν πρέπουσαν ἐν πόλει βοήν,  
 ὄχλων τ' ἀθροίσματ'· οὐδ' ἐγὼ ξυνεσπόμεν,  
 μὴ ποῦ νιν εἰσίδοιμι τῶν ἐχθρῶν βία  
 ἀσχημονοῦντα· τοῦτο δ' ἐννοούμενος,  
 πῶς ἂν νιν, ἐλπίδος γε τῇσδε μὴ σφαλεῖς,  
 ἐλεύθερον στήσαιμι, κοινωνοὺς δ' ἔχειν  
 ὑμᾶς θέλων προσῆλθον ὧν αὐτὸς φρονῶ.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

λέγ', ὡς προθύμοις, ἡδέως τ' ἂν ἐλπίδος  
 σοὶ τῇσδε συλλαβοῦσιν, αἰδοῖον κára.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἐγὼ κατ' ἀνδρ' ἀνακτας, εἴτ' οἴκοι τυχῶν, 1520  
 εἴτ' αὖ κατ' ἄστν, γονυπετῶν κλαυθμῶ λιτῶν  
 συχνὸν μάλ' ἰκέτευσα, δεσμίου πατῆρ  
 παιδὸς φέρων ἄποινα· τῶν δ' εὐρόν τινας,  
 τοὺς καὶ Δάγωνα χοῦς ἔχει θυοσκόους  
 μάλιστα προσκυνοῦντας, εἰς πικρὰν χολήν  
 τετραμμένους, κακοῖσιν ἀντιδρᾶν κακὰ,  
 ὑπερφρονοῦντας, ὥστε θαυμάζειν ἐμέ.  
 ἄλλοι δ' ἔδοξαν τοῦπικεῖκὲς ἀμφέπειν,  
 ἔργῳ δὲ πᾶς τις κέρδος ἴδιον, οὗ χάριν

Private reward, for which both God and State  
They easily would set to sale; a third  
More generous far and civil, who confessed  
They had enough revenged, having reduced  
Their foe to misery beneath their fears,  
The rest was magnanimity to remit, 1470  
If some convenient ransom were proposed.  
What noise or shout was that? it tore the sky.

## CHORUS.

Doubtless the people shouting to behold  
Their once great dread, captive and blind before them;  
Or at some proof of strength before them shewn.

## MANOAH.

His ransom, if my whole inheritance  
May compass it, shall willingly be paid,  
And numbered down. Much rather I shall choose  
To live the poorest in my tribe, than richest,  
And he in that calamitous prison left. 1480  
No, I am fixed not to part hence without him.  
For his redemption all my patrimony,  
If need be, I am ready to forego

Θεὸν φιλοῦσι τὴν πόλιν τ' ἀπεμπολᾶν. 1530  
 τρίτοι δὲ, τᾶστέϊόν τε προῦχοντες πολὺ  
 τό τ' εὐγενὲς, τὸν τ' ἐχθρὸν οὐ φοβούμενοι  
 τὸν νῦν καταστραφέντα μὴ βλάπτειν ἔτι,  
 ἀπηγόρευον τῇ πρόσω τιμωρίᾳ·  
 γενναῖον ἡγήσαντο καὶ καλὸν τόδε,  
 ἐφ' ᾧ τε λύτρα λαμβάνειν τιν' εἰκότα.  
 ἕα· κραυγῇ διαβράγენტ' ἂν οὐρανὸν λέγοις.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

δῆλοι γὰρ ἀναβοῶντες οἱ ξυνηγμένοι,  
 ἀνόμματον δεθέντα τὸν δεινὸν πάλαι  
 ὀρώντες, ἣ σθένους τι θαυμαστὸν τέκμαρ. 1540

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

χαίρων ἂν, εἰ καὶ πάνθ' ὅσ' ἐν κλήρῳ πάρα  
 ρίψαί με δεῖ, τελοῖμ' ἂν, ὥστ' ἐλευθεροῦν  
 τὸν παῖδα· τῶν γὰρ φυλετῶν πενέστατος  
 ζῆν ἀντὶ πλούτου μᾶλλον ἂν προειλόμην,  
 ἢ τόνδ' ἐν ἀθλῆαισι διατελεῖν πέδαις.  
 τὰδ' οὖν, ἐκὼν γὰρ πάντ' ἂν ἐστερημένος  
 τὰ πατρόθεν τυχόντα, διασώσας γέ νιν,  
 στέρξαιμ', ἀνάγκης τῇσδὲ μοι ἵπικειμένης,  
 ἐμοὶ δέδοκται, μῆδ' ἄτερθ' αὐτοῦ μολεῖν.



And quit. Not wanting him, I shall want nothing.

CHORUS.

Fathers are wont to lay up for their sons,  
Thou for thy son art bent to lay out all;  
Sons wont to nurse their parents in old age,  
Thou in old age car'st how to nurse thy son,  
Made older than thy age through eyesight lost.

MANOAH.

It shall be my delight to tend his eyes, 1490  
And view him sitting in the house, ennobled  
With all those high exploits by him achieved,  
And on his shoulders waving down those locks,  
That of a nation armed the strength contained.  
And I persuade me, God had not permitted  
His strength again to grow up with his hair,  
Garrisoned round about him like a camp  
Of faithful soldiery, were not his purpose  
To use him further yet in some great service;  
Not to sit idle, with so great a gift 1500  
Useless, and thence ridiculous, about him.  
And since his strength with eyesight was not lost,  
God will restore him eyesight to his strength.

CHORUS.

Thy hopes are not ill-founded, nor seem vain,

αὐτοῦ παρόντος, οὐδενός με δεῖ ποτε.

1550

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὑπέρ γε τέκνων πατέρα δεῖ προμηθείας,  
 σὺ δ' ἀντὶ τοῦ σοῦ πάντ' ἂν ἀποβαλεῖν θέλεις·  
 παῖδες φιλοῦσι τοὺς σφε θρέψαντας τρέφειν,  
 σοὶ δ' ἡ πρόνοια πῶς τὸν υἱὸν ἂν τρέφοις,  
 τῶν σῶν ὑπερσχόντ', ὀμμάτων φθορᾶ, χρόνων.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἔμοι γὰρ ὀμμάτων μὲν ἀσμένφ μάλα  
 τούτων μελήσει, καὶ τρέφειν καθήμενον  
 οἴκοι, μεγαυχεῖ θ' ὦν δέδρακ' ἀγαλματι  
 πρέποντα, κυμαίνουσαν ὥμοισιν τρίχα  
 θαμβοῦντι, τὴν ἐθνῶν ποθ' εἴρξασαν μένος. 1560  
 καὶ δὴ πέπεισμαι μήποτ' ἂν στέρξαι Θεὸν  
 τόνδ' αὖθις ἰσχύοντα σὺν κομῶν τροφῇ  
 τῶν ἀντὶ πιστῆς κρᾶτα πέρι τεταγμένων  
 φρουρᾶς, ἐν ἄλλοις εἴ γε μὴ κλεινοῖς τέ νιν  
 διακουεῖν ἔσωσεν· οὐδ' ἄργον γέρας  
 οἶμαί νιν ἰκλάζοντα καὶ νωθρὸν τρέφειν.  
 ὥς δ' οὐ ξυνεκπεσόντος ὀφθαλμοῖς σθένους,  
 εἴη ξυναναλαβεῖν νιν ὀφθαλμοὺς σθένει.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

εὐ δὴτ' ἔοικας οὐτ' ἄρ' ἐλπίδων μάτην

Of his delivery, and thy joy thereon  
Conceived, agreeable to a father's love,  
In both which we, as next, participate.

MANOAH.

I know your friendly minds, and—O, what noise !  
Mercy of Heaven, what hideous noise was that !  
Horribly loud, unlike the former shout. 1510

CHORUS.

Noise call you it? or universal groan,  
As if the whole inhabitation perished !  
Blood, death, and deathful deeds, are in that noise.  
Ruin, destruction at the utmost point.

MANOAH.

Of ruin indeed methought I heard the noise.  
O it continues, they have slain my son.

CHORUS.

Thy son is rather slaying them ; that outcry  
From slaughter of one foe could not ascend.

MANOAH.

Some dismal accident it needs must be.  
What shall we do, stay here or run and see ? 1520

CHORUS.

Best keep together here, lest, running thither

τούτων ἔχεσθαι, τὴν θ' ὁμόσπορον χαρὰν 1570  
καλῶς ἔδειξας, ὡς φιλόστοργος πατήρ.  
τῶν δ' ἡμῖν ἀμφοῖν, οἷα δευτέροις, μέτα.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἀλλ' εὐμενεῖς μὲν ὄντας εὖ γ' ἐπίσταμαι—  
τί δαί; τίν' εἰσήκουσα, πρὸς Θεοῦ, κτύπον;  
λαμπρὸς μὲν ἦν καὶ φοβερός, οἷος οὐ τὸ πρίν.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

κτύπον μὲν οὖν, μᾶλλον δὲ πάγκοινόν τινα  
στόνον, διαφθαρέντος ὡς ὅλου γένους  
ἐν αἱματωπῇ καὶ πολυκτόνῳ φόνῳ  
αὐτῶς κατ' ἄκρας, αὐτόπρεμν' ὀλωλότων.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ὀλωλότων γὰρ ὥς, ψόφου κατησθόμην. 1580  
παπαῦ τὸν υἱὸν, οὐ λήγουσι γὰρ, κατέκτανον.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

μᾶλλον γ' ὑπ' αὐτοῦ κατθανόντας ἂν λέγοις.  
ἐνὸς γὰρ οὐκ ἂν ἦν ποθ' ἡ δεινὴ βοή.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

οἰκτρὸν τι συμβέβηκεν, εὐδηλον τόδε.  
οὐκ οὐν ἐκεῖσε, τοῦ βλέπειν, δραμεῖν χρεών;

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οὐκ, ἀλλὰ τὰνθάδ' ἀσφαλέστερ', ἅς ἐκεῖ

We unawares run into danger's mouth.  
This evil on the Philistines is fallen ;  
From whom could else a general cry be heard ?  
The sufferers then will scarce molest us here ;  
From other hands we need not much to fear.  
What if, his eyesight—for to Israel's God  
Nothing is hard—by miracle restored,  
He now be dealing dole among his foes,  
And over heaps of slaughtered walk his way ? 1530

MANOAH.

That were a joy presumptuous to be thought.

CHORUS.

Yet God hath wrought things as incredible  
For his people of old ; what hinders now ?

MANOAH.

He can, I know, but doubt to think he will ;  
Yet hope would fain subscribe, and tempts belief.  
A little stay will bring some notice hither.

CHORUS.

Of good or bad so great, of bad the sooner ;

κίνδυνον ἂν λάθοιμεν εἰσπεσόντες ἄν.  
 ἔστιν τόδ', ἔστι, τοῖς Φιλιστίνοις κακὸν,  
 οὐδ' ἦν ἀπ' ἄλλων τόνδ' ἂν ὠρυθμὸν κλύειν.  
 ταύτῃ μὲν οὖν μένουτας οὐ βλάβησιν πῶς, 1590  
 αὐτοὶ κακῶς ἔχοντες· οὐδ' ἄλλοι τινές.  
 ἴσως μὲν, οὐ γὰρ ἔστι τὸν μέγαν Θεὸν  
 οὐδέν ποτ' εἴ γε μὴ μάλ' εὐχερῶς ποιεῖν,  
 τῶν ὁμμάτων οἳ παρὰ φύσιν κατηγμένων,  
 ἐχθροῖσιν ἀντίποινα κατὰ μέρος φέρει,  
 στείχων νενησμένοισιν ἐν νεκροῖς μέσος.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ὑπέρμετρον δὲ τοῦτο, καὶ παρ' ἐλπίδα.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

Θεὸς δὲ τοιάδ' ἔσθ' ὅτ' εἵργασται πάλαι  
 πρὸς τῶν ἑαυτοῦ γ', οὐδ' ὁ κωλύσων πάρα.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

δῆλος σθένων, ἄδηλος εἰ καὶ βούλεται. 1600  
 ὅμως δέ μ' ἐλπίς ὥστε δέξασθαι τάδε  
 σαίνει· μένουσι δ', ἄγγελος τάχ' ἂν μόλοι.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

φθάνει τὰ λυπρ', ὥς ἐν τόσῃ γε συμφορᾷ·

For evil news rides post, while good news baits.  
And to our wish I see one hither speeding ;  
A Hebrew, as I guess, and of our tribe. 1540

## MESSENGER.


Oh, whither shall I run, or which way fly  
The sight of this so horrid spectacle,  
Which erst my eyes beheld, and yet behold?  
For dire imagination still pursues me.  
But providence or instinct of nature seems,  
Or reason, though disturbed, and scarce consulted,  
To have guided me aright, I know not how,  
To thee first, reverend Manoah, and to these  
My countrymen, whom here I knew remaining,  
As at some distance from the place of horror, 1550  
So in the sad event too much concerned.

## MANOAH.

The accident was loud, and here before thee  
With rueful cry, yet what it was we hear not.  
No preface needs, thou seest we long to know.

## MESSENGER.

It would burst forth, but I recover breath .



χρόνια τὰ τερπνὰ, τὸ δὲ κακὸν ταχύπτερον.  
προσέρχεται δ' Ἑβραῖος, εἰκάσαι γ' ἐμέ,  
ὁμόφυλος ἡμῖν, καίριός τε συντυχών.

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

φεῦ, φεῦ, τίς ἄν μοι, ποῖ δραμόντι, καταφυγή  
γένοιτ' ἂν, ὥστε μὴ τὰ τλημονέστατα  
ιδεῖν, ἰδὼν γὰρ διατελῶ λεύσσων ἔτι  
τὰ συντυχόντα, περιφόβῳ φαντάσματι; 1610  
ἀλλ', εἴτ' ἄρ' ἦν τὸ θεῖον, ἢ τὰ τῆς φύσεως,  
εἴτ' αὖ τὸ φρόνιμον—ἀλλὰ σύμβουλον μόγις  
τόδ' ἦν ἐλέσθαι, κάρτα παράκοπον φρενῶν—  
οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως, δεῦρ' ἦλθον εὐπλοίας τυχών,  
κιχεῖν σε πρῶτον, τὸν μάλ' αἰδοῖον, Μάνως,  
καὶ τοὺς πολίτας, ἐνθάδ' οὓς ἠπιστάμην  
μένοντας, οὐ μὲν ἐμφόβων πέλας τόπων,  
ἀλλ' οἷς ὑπέρφευ τῶν πεπραγμένων μέλει.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

σὲ μὲν κτύπῳ φθάσαντα καὶ λυγρῷ στόνῳ  
ἴσμεν τὰ συμβεβηκόθ', οἷα δ' ἐστίν, οὐ. 1620  
μαθεῖν προθύμοις, οὗ τι φροιμίου σε δεῖ.

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

οὐδ' ἦν στέγειν τὰδ', ἀλλὰ μ' ἀμπνεῦσαι χρεῶν



And sense distract, to know well what I utter

MANOAH.

Tell us the sum, the circumstance defer.

MESSENGER.

Gaza yet stands, but all her sons are fallen,

All in a moment overwhelmed and fallen.

MANOAH.

Sad ; but thou knowest to Israelites not saddest      1560  
The desolation of a hostile city.

MESSENGER.

Feed on that first, there may in grief be surfeit.

MANOAH.

Relate by whom.

MESSENGER.

By Samson,

MANOAH.

That still lessens

The sorrow, and converts it nigh to joy.

MESSENGER.

Ah, Manoah, I refrain too suddenly

To utter what will come at last too soon ;

Lest evil tidings, with too rude irruption

Hitting thy aged ear, should pierce too deep.

τὸν νοῦν τ' ἀνορθοῦν, ὥστε τὰκριβῇ λέγειν.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἀλλ' ἀμβαλὼν ἕκαστα, τὸ ξύμπαν φράσον.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

Γάζην ἔτ' οὔσαν, τοὺς δὲ Γαζίτας λέγω  
ξυνολωλότας τοὺς πάντας ἐν βραχεῖ χρόνῳ.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἀλγεινά γ', ἀλλ' οὐ τοῖσιν Ἑβραίοις τάδε  
ἄλγιστα, τὴν ἐχθράν τιν' ἐκπέρσαι πόλιν.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

περίσ' ἂν ἦν τὰντεῦθεν' ἀρκείτω τόδε.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

τίνος δὲ τοῦργον;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

τοῦδ' ὃς ἐκπέφυκε σοῦ.

1630

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

σχεδὸν χαρά μοι, διάδοχος λύπης, πάρα.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

Μάνως, μάλ' ἄκων ἂν διηγοίμην τάχος  
ὃ καὶ χρονισθὲν κάρτ' ἄωρον ἔρχεται·  
καὶ γὰρ γεραιὰ προσβολαῖς κακαγγέλοις  
βλάψαιμ' ἂν ὧτα, διατόρῳ κνίσας φόβῳ.

MANOAH.

Suspense in news is torture, speak them out.

MESSENGER.

Take then the worst in brief, Samson is dead. 1570

MANOAH.

The worst indeed! Oh, all my hopes defeated  
To free him hence! but Death who sets all free  
Hath paid his ransom now and full discharge.  
What windy joy this day had I conceived,  
Hopeful of his delivery, which now proves  
Abortive, as the first-born bloom of spring  
Nipt with the lagging rear of winter's frost!  
Yet, ere I give the reins to grief, say first  
How died he; death to life is crown or shame.  
All by him fell, thou sayest; by whom fell he? 1580  
What glorious hand gave Samson his death's wound?

MESSENGER.

Unwounded of his enemies he fell.

MANOAH.

Wearied with slaughter then, or how? explain.

MESSENGER.

By his own hands.



ΜΑΝΩΣ.

φρενῶν σπαραγμὸς τοῦτο τὰσαφές· φράσον.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ξυνελὼν λέγω τᾷλγιστα· παῖς τέθνηχ' ὁ σός.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

εὖ δὴ λέγεις ἄλγιστα· φρουδὸν οἶχεται

τό μοι δοκηθὲν, ὡς ἐλευθεροῦντί νιν.

θάνατος δέ, πάντων ὅς κακῶν ἀπαλλαγὴ, 1640

καὶ τόνδ' ὅλως ἐβρύσαθ'· ὦν δ' ἀνειλόμην

ἀνεμωλίων γεννήματ' ἐλπιδῶν νέα

ἀπῆλθεν ἔκβολ', ὡς τὸ χεῖμ', ὀπισθόπουν,

πάχυν τὰ πρωτόλεια τῶν μηνῶν δάκνει.

πρὶν δ' ὑπερέχειν μ' ἀλγοῦντα, σήμνηνον τὸ πῶς.

θάνατος βροτοῖσιν αἰσχος ἢ κῦδος φέρει.

τίς τὸν κτανόντα πάντας, ὡς σὺ φῆς, κτανών;

τίς εὐχεται Σάμψωνα καιρίαν βαλῶν;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἐχθρῶν ἄθικτον ἴσθι νιν τεθνηκότα.

ΜΑΝΩΣ.

φόνοισιν ἐκκεκμηκός, ἢ ποίῳ τρόπῳ;

1650

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

φήμ' αὐτόχειρά νιν θανεῖν.

MANOAH.

Self-violence? what cause  
Brought him so soon at variance with himself  
Among his foes?

MESSENGER.

Inevitable cause,  
At once both to destroy and be destroyed.  
The edifice, where all were met to see him,  
Upon their heads and on his own he pulled.

MANOAH.

Oh, lastly over-strong against thyself! 1590  
A dreadful way thou tookest to thy revenge.  
More than enough we know; but while things yet  
Are in confusion, give us, if thou canst,  
Eye-witness of what first or last was done,  
Relation more particular and distinct.

MESSENGER.

Occasions drew me early to this city,  
And, as the gates I entered with sun-rise,  
The morning trumpets festival proclaimed,  
Through each high street. Little I had dispatched,  
When all abroad was rumoured that this day 1600  
Samson should be brought forth, to shew the people  
Proof of his mighty strength in feats and games.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

αὐτοκτόνος

πῶς ἦν, ἐν ἐχθροῖς αὐτὸς ἔχθιστος φανείς;

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

θνήσκων γὰρ ἐθανάτωσεν, οὐδ' ἄλυσις ἦν.  
τὸ δῶμα πᾶσιν εἰς θέαν ἡθροισμένοις  
αὐτῷ τ' ἐφείλκυσ', ἐγκατασκήπτων ὁμοῦ.

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

αὐτὸς τὸ σαυτοῦ πῆμα τῷ σθένει λαβὼν  
δεινόν τιν' εἴλου, φεῦ, τρόπον τιμωρίας.  
ἡμῖν δέ, καίπερ καταμαθοῦσι καὶ λῆαν,  
σὺ ταῦτα, πάντων τῶνδ' ἅτ' αὐτόπτης γεγώς,  
σκεθρῶς διηγοῦ, πρὶν καταστήναι πόλιν. 1660

## ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἔγωγε ταύτας, ὄρθριος μολὼν, πύλας  
ἔτυχον ἐσελθών· ἐν δὲ τῷδ' ἐωθινή  
ἔδειξ' ἐορτὴν κατὰ μέσσην σάλπιγξ πόλιν.  
κάμοι τὰ πράγματ' οὔτι προῦκοψεν πολὺ,  
πρὶν δημόθρου με πάντοθεν κιχεῖν φάτιν  
ὥς σήμερον Σάμψωνα μέλλοιεν, σθένος  
δείξοντα παμμέγιστον ἐξάγειν τάχα,  
ἀγῶνας ἀθλήσοντα, πάνδημον θέαν.

I sorrowed at his captive state, but minded  
Not to be absent at that spectacle.  
The building was a spacious theatre,  
Half-round, on two main pillars vaulted high,  
With seats where all the lords, and each degree  
Of sort, might sit in order to behold ;  
The other side was open, where the throng  
On banks and scaffolds under sky might stand ;      1610  
I among these aloof obscurely stood.  
The feast and noon grew high, and sacrifice  
Had filled their hearts with mirth, high cheer, and wine,  
When to their sports they turned. Immediately  
Was Samson, as a public servant, brought,  
In their state livery clad ; before him pipes  
And timbrels ; on each side went armed guards,  
Both horse and foot, before him and behind  
Archers and slingers, cataphracts and spears.  
At sight of him the people with a shout      1620  
Rifted the air, clamouring their god with praise,  
Who had made their dreadful enemy their thrall.  
He patient, but undaunted, where they led him  
Came to the place ; and what was set before him,

κείνῳ μὲν οὖν παθόντι συμπαθὼν ὄμως,  
 τὸν νοῦν προσεῖχον τῇδε τῇ θεωρίᾳ. 1670  
 θέατρον ἦν μὲν τῇδε παιγνία μέγα,  
 τὸ δ' ἡμικύκλιον κίοςίν τ' ἡρείδετο,  
 ἡμπισχέ θ' ἀψίς· ἐν δὲ παντοῖοι τινες  
 στοιχηδὸν ἐθεάσαντο, συνθέτοις ἔδραις·  
 ἐτέρωθι δ', ὄχθαις βήμασίν θ' ὑπαίθριος  
 λεῶς, ἐν ᾧ καὶ χωρὶς ὧν ἐλάνθανον.  
 αὐτοὶ δὲ κωμάζοντες, ἐν μεσημβρίᾳ,  
 ἤδη δ' ὑπερπλησθέντες εὐόινου βορᾶς  
 θύοντες, εὐφρονές τε, τῶν προκειμένων  
 εἶχοντο, δέσμῳν τε δημῖα στολῇ 1680  
 Σάμψωνα μετεπέμφαντο. κύμβαλ' ἦν πάρος  
 αὐλοὶ τε, πεζοὶ δ' ἱππότηται τ' ὀπισθέ νιν,  
 ξύν σφενδονητῶν ξύν τε τοξοτῶν λόχοις  
 δόρασίν τε καταφράκταις τε τῇδε χᾶτέρᾳ,  
 κατῆγον· ὥς δ' ἐσείδον, οὐρανὸς βοῇ  
 διεβῥάγη, τὸν ἐνθάδ' ὑμνούντων θεὸν,  
 δοῦλον παρασχόνθ' ὅστις ἦν πάντων φόβος.  
 ὁ δ' ἀτρεμαῖος, τλησικαρδίῳ φρενὶ,  
 ὅποι νιν ἦγον, πάντα θαυμαστώ σθένει  
 ἔλκων τε βαστάζων τε διετέλει χερσὶν 1690



Which without help of eye might be assayed,  
To heave, pull, draw or break, he still performed,  
All with incredible, stupendous force,  
None daring to appear antagonist.  
At length for intermission sake they led him  
Between the pillars; he his guide requested 1630  
(For so from such as nearer stood we heard)  
As over-tired to let him lean a while  
With both his arms on those two massy pillars,  
That to the arched roof gave main support.  
He unsuspecting led him; which when Samson  
Felt in his arms, with head a while inclined,  
And eyes fast fixed he stood, as one who prayed,  
Or some great matter in his mind revolved.  
At last with head erect thus cried aloud:  
"Hitherto, Lords, what your commands imposed 1640  
I have performed, as reason was, obeying,  
Not without wonder or delight beheld;  
Now of my own accord such other trial  
I mean to shew you of my strength, yet greater,  
As with amaze shall strike all who behold."  
This uttered, straining all his nerves he bowed;

φέρων τ' ἀναρρήγνυς θ', ὅς' ὁμμάτων ἄτερ  
 ἔξεστι τολμᾶν· δεινὰ δ' ἦν ὀρᾶν πάνυ,  
 οὐδ' ἀνθάμιλλος ἦν τις, οὐδ' ἐναντίος.  
 στήλαιν δέ νιν μεταξὺ ταῖν διπλαῖν τέλος  
 ἔθεσαν ἐλινύσοντα· χῶς ἦδη καμῶν,  
 (τὸ δ' ἦν ἀκοῦσαι τῶν παραστάντων πάρα),  
 ᾗτησε τοὺς ἄγοντας, ὥστε κίονας  
 δισσοῖσι δισσοὺς ξυλλαβεῖν βραχίουσιν,  
 οἱ δὲ βεβαίων ὑποδοχαῖς στήρυγμάτων  
 ὀροφὰς δόμων σώζουσι κοιλογαστόρων· 1700  
 οἱ δ' οὐχ ὑποπτεύοντες ἤγαγον· τὰ δὲ  
 μάρψας, κάρα τ' ἔνευσε πρὶν τολμᾶν πλέω,  
 τὰ τ' ὄμμαθ', ὡς ἵκτωρ τις, ἢ τιν' ἐν φρενὸς  
 στρωφῶν βάθει δυσφέκλυτ', ἐστηρίζετο.  
 τέλος δ' ἀναβλέπων τε καὶ λαμπρὸν βοῶν  
 τὰδ' εἰπ'· ἄνακτες, μέχρι τοῦδ' εἰργασμένος  
 τὰ μοι τεταγμέν', ὡς μάλ' εἰκὸς ἦν, κυρῶ.  
 τὰ δ' ἀσμένοις ἦν, οὐδ' ἄνευ θάμβους, ἰδεῖν.  
 νῦν αὐτόβουλος ἐννοῶ τοιαῦτα δὴ  
 δεῖξαι τεκμήρι', εἰς ὑπερβολὴν, σθένους, 1710  
 οἳ ἂν τὸν εἰσορῶντα καταπλήξαι φόβῳ.  
 ὡς οὖν ὀρεινὰ δυσπνόφ σαλεύματα

As with the force of winds and waters pent  
When mountains tremble, those two massy pillars  
With horrible convulsion to and fro  
He tugged, he shook, till down they came and  
The whole roof after them, with burst of thunde  
Upon the heads of all who sat beneath,  
Lords, ladies, captains, counsellors, or priests,  
Their choice nobility and flower, not only  
Of this but each Philistian city round,  
Met from all parts to solemnize this feast.  
Samson, with these immixed, inevitably  
Pulled down the same destruction on himself ;  
The vulgar only scaped who stood without.

## CHORUS.

Oh, dearly-bought revenge, yet glorious !  
Living or dying thou hast fulfilled  
The work for which thou wast foretold  
To Israel ; and now liest victorious  
Among thy slain self-killed,  
Not willingly, but tangled in the fold

τυφῷ τε κλεισθέντων τε χειμάρρων μένει,  
 αἰνοῖσιν ἔλκθημοῖσι κίωνων βάθρα  
 ἔσεισεν ἔνθα κἄνθα καὶ διέσπασε·  
 τὰ δ' αἶψα συνθλιβέντα καταπεσόντα τε  
 ἐπὶ πᾶσιν αὐτὴν ἐγκατέσκηψεν στέγην  
 τοῖς ἡμένοισι, κοιράνοις γυναιξί τε,  
 ταγοῖς θυηπόλοις τε καὶ βουληφόροις,  
 ὅσοι παρῆσαν τῶν Φιλιστίνων πρόμοι· 1720  
 οὐ γὰρ πόλεως ξυνῆλθον ἐκ ταύτης μόνον,  
 οἱ δ' ἀμφὶ ταύτην πάντοθεν, τοῖς οἷς θεοῖς  
 ῥέζοντες ἔννομ'· ἐν δὲ τῇ ξυνῇ φθορᾷ  
 αὐτῷ τὸν αὐτὸν ἐνέβαλεν Σάμψων μόρον.  
 ὁ δῆμος, ἔξω τυγχάνων, ἐν ἀσφαλεῖ.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

φεῦ μάλα πολλοῦ γ' ἀντιδοθείσας  
 ποινας πράξας, ἀλλ' ἐρικυδεῖς,  
 ἔργον τελέσας τὸ προκηρυχθὲν  
 τοῖσιν Ἑβραίοις· νῦν δὲ τριακτὶρ  
 ἐν τεθνεῶσιν κεῖσαι τεθνεῶς, 1730  
 ἄκων μάλα δὴ, τῆς γὰρ ἀνάγκης  
 ἄρκυες εἶλον στερρόις πλέγμασιν·  
 ἥς κατ' ἐφετμὰς μόρον εἵληχας

Of dire necessity, whose law in death conjoin'd  
Thee with thy slaughtered foes, in number more  
Than all thy life had slain before.

## SEMICHORUS.

While their hearts were jocund and sublime,  
Drunk with idolatry, drunk with wine, 1670  
And fat regorged of bulls and goats,  
Chanting their idol, and preferring  
Before our living Dread, who dwells  
In Silo, His bright sanctuary,  
Among them he a spirit of phrenzy sent,  
Who hurt their minds,  
And urged them on with mad desire  
To call in haste for their destroyer.  
They, only set on sport and play,  
Unweetingly importuned 1680

ξὺν τοῖς ὑπὸ σοῦ θανατωθεῖσιν,  
 πλείοσιν ἢ καὶ  
 ζῶν ἔκανες διὰ πᾶσαν.

## ΗΜΙΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἐν ᾧ γε θεομανεῖς  
 καὶ φρενόπληκτοι χαρσποί τ'  
 οἰνοβαρεῖς τ' ἔσαν,  
 ταυρέου τε δημοῦ  
 1740 ἄδην γέμοντες αἰγέου τ',  
 ἄθεον θεὸν μὲν ὕμνω-  
 -δοῦντες, ὥς δὲ μείζονα  
 κλήζοντες ἢ τὸν ἄ-  
 -μὸν Φόβον αἰὲν ὄντα,  
 τὸν Σιλῶνος ἀγλαὸν  
 ναὸν κατοικοῦντ', αὐτὸς εἰσέ-  
 -πεμψ' οἰστρήλατον  
 1750 μανίαν φρενοκλόπον, παρακόπους  
 αὐτὸν προσκαλεῖν  
 τὸν σφᾶς ὀλέσοντ', ἐπι-  
 -θυμοῦντας ἀσπερχές·  
 μόνον δ' ἐν κραδίᾳ  
 τερπνῶς παύματ' ἔχοντες,

Their own destruction to come speedy upon them :

So fond are mortal men,

Fallen into wrath divine,

As their own ruin on themselves to invite ;

Insensate left, or to sense reprobate,

And with blindness internal struck.

SEMICHORUS.

But he, though blind of sight,

Despised, and thought extinguished quite,

With inward eyes illuminated,

His fiery virtue roused

1690

From under ashes into sudden flame ;

λειπόμενοι δὲ νοῦ,  
 λιπαροῦσιν αὐτοί,  
 σφᾶς καὶ τάχιστα τὰν δύναν  
 κιχεῖν· βρότειον ὀφλόν-  
 -τες πάθημα μωρίας,  
 κότῳ θεοσσύτῳ,  
 αὐτομάτῳ δὲ βουλᾷ,  
 τῶν σφιν αἰψ' ὀλεθρίων  
 ἐπεσπεσόντων ἐφθάρησαν,  
 ἀνόητοι πάνυ,  
 τητωμένους γὰρ ἔλιπε Δαίμων,  
 ἀναισθησίᾳ  
 βεβλαμμένοι, ἣ φρενῶν  
 ἀλαῶν ἀμαυρώσει.

1760

## ΗΜΙΧΟΡΟΣ.

αὐτὸς δὲ, καίπερ ἔψιν ἐστερημένος,  
 παρὰ τ' ἀνθρώποις οὐδενὸς ἄξιος,  
 ἣ καὶ, τό γε δοκοῦν, ἀφανής,  
 βλέπων τῆς φρενὸς ὄμμασιν,  
 πυριφλεγὲς μένος τ' ἥ-  
 -γειρ', ὡς αἰφνίδιον φῶς στεροπᾶς ἐκ σποδοῦ ἐκρήξαν,

1770



And as an evening dragon came,  
Assailant on the perched roosts,  
And nests in order ranged  
Of tame villatic fowl; but as an eagle  
His cloudless thunder bolted on their heads.  
So Virtue, given for lost,  
Depressed and overthrown, as seemed,  
Like that self-begotten bird,  
In the Arabian woods embost,  
That no second knows nor third,  
And lay erewhile a holocaust,  
From out her ashy womb now teemed,  
Revives, reflowerishes, then vigorous most  
When most unactive deemed;  
And, though her body die, her fame survives

οἷός θ' ἐσπέριος δράκων ἐφάνθη,  
 κρεμαστοῖς ὅστις ἦλθ' ἐπίσσυτος

νεοσσοτρόφοις σταθμοῖς

εὖ τεταγμένοισί που

τιθασῶν ἀγραύλων

πετεηνῶν· ὁ δ' αἰετοῦ

1780

ἐς κεφαλὰς δίκαν ἐβρόντα,

νεφέων ἄτερθεν ὄρφνας·

ἀρετὰ τοιοῦτον·

ἦν γὰρ φθαρεῖσαν ἐς τὸ πᾶν ἐπήκασαν,

ἀπολωλυῖάν θ' ὥς ἐκπατίαν,

ὥς αὐτοφυῆς ἐν Ἀραβικῶν

θαῦμ' ὄρνιθος ἐρημία

δενδρέων, ἀνέστη,

ὃ δὴ μουνογενὲς δεύτερον οὐκ, οὐδὲ τρίτον, δέχεται,

ἐν ᾧπερ δ' ὀλόκαιτον ὥς ἔκειτο,

1790

ἀναζῆ, γαστέρος δὲ φεψαλω-

-θείσης ἀναβρύει πάλιν,

τότε μάλιστα βίον ἔχον

ὅτε πλείστ' ἀπειπεῖν

ἔδόκει· σῶμα γὰρ θάνεν,

ἀλλ' ἀρετᾶς ἔτ' ἐστὶ δόξα·

A secular bird, ages of lives.

MANOAH.

Come, come ; no time for lamentation now,  
Nor much more cause. Samson hath quit himself  
Like Samson, and heroically hath finished 1710  
A life heroic, on his enemies  
Fully revenged ; hath left them years of mourning.  
And lamentation to the sons of Caphtor,  
Through all Philistian bounds ; to Israël  
Honour hath left, and freedom, let but them  
Find courage to lay hold on this occasion ;  
To himself and father's house eternal fame :  
And, which is best and happiest yet, all this  
With God not parted from him, as was feared,  
But favouring and assisting to the end. 1720  
Nothing is here for tears, nothing to wail  
Or knock the breast, no weakness, no contempt,  
Dispraise, or blame ; nothing but well and fair,  
And what may quiet us in a death so noble.  
Let us go find the body, where it lies  
Soaked in his enemies' blood, and from the stream  
With lavers pure and cleansing herbs wash off  
The clotted gore. I with what speed the while  
—Gaza is not in plight to say us nay—  
Will send for all my kindred, all my friends, 1730

φοίνιχ' ὑπερβαλοῦσα,  
ἀδιάφθορος ζῇ.

1798

## ΜΑΝΩΣ.

ἄγετε δὴ, καιρὸς γὰρ οὐκέτ', οὐδὲ δεῖ, θρηνῳδίας,  
τοῖα γὰρ δέδρακε Σάμψων, οἷα καὶ Σάμψων' ἐχρήν,  
ζῶν τε καὶ θνήσκων ἀγαστός· οὐδὲ τῆς τιμωρίας  
ἀποτυχὼν κατ' οὐδέν, ἔν γε τῶν Φιλιστίνων ὄροις  
πολυτεῖς ἔθηκεν ἅτας τῷ γένει τοῦ Κάπτορος,  
τοῖσι δ' Ἑβραίοισι δόξαν καὶ πόνων ἀπαλλαγὴν,  
μή νυν ἀποτυχούσι καιροῦ δειλίας ἡσσημένοις.  
ἀμφὶ δ' αὐτὸν, ἀμφὶ γένναν, εὖ γ' αἰμύνηστον κλέος·  
ὃ δὲ κράτιστόν, οὐκ ἀπόντος, τοῦτο δ' ἦν δεῖσαι, Θεοῦ.  
αὐτὸς ἦν βοηθός, αὐτὸς διετέλει παραστατῶν.

τοισίδ' οὐ κλαυθμὸς προσήκει, στέρνα κοπτόντων  
γόοι,

1809

οὐ γάρ ἐστ' ἄβληχρον οὐδέν, οὐδ' ἀτιμίας τυχόν·  
πάγκαλ' ἤμιν, εὖ θανόντος, ταῦτ' ἔχει μελίσματα.  
δεῖ δὲ κείμενον τὸ σῶμα καὶ μυδῶν ἐχθρῶν φόνῳ  
ἐκματεύσαντας, ῥοαῖσι καὶ φυτοῖς καθαροῖσι  
αἷμα δὴ τὸ συμπεπηγὸς ἐκβαλεῖν διαρρύδην.  
ἐν δὲ τῷδ', ὥς οὐκ ἐχόντων τῶνδε κωλύειν ἔτι,  
ὥς τάχιστα τοὺς φίλους τε τοὺς τε συγγενεῖς ἐγὼ

To fetch him hence, and solemnly attend,  
With silent obsequy and funeral train,  
Home to his father's house. There will I build him  
A monument, and plant it round with shade  
Of laurel ever-green and branching palm,  
With all his trophies hung, and acts enrolled  
In copious legend, or sweet lyric song.  
Thither shall all the valiant youth resort,  
And from his memory inflame their breasts,  
To matchless valour and adventures high; 1740  
The virgins also shall, on feastful days,  
Visit his tomb with flowers, only bewailing  
His lot unfortunate in nuptial choice,  
From whence captivity and loss of eyes.

## CHORUS.

All is best, though we oft doubt,  
What the unsearchable dispose  
Of highest Wisdom brings about,  
And ever best found in the close.  
Oft He seems to hide his face,  
But unexpectedly returns 1750  
And to his faithful champion hath in place  
Bore witness gloriously; whence Gaza mourns,

τοῦτο μώμενος ξυνάξω· τὸν νέκυν κομιστέον  
 ἐς τὰ πατρὸς, εὐσταλές τε καὶ σιωπηλὸν γέρας  
 προσλαβεῖν κτερίσματ'· αὐτὸς καὶ δάφνης ἀειθαλοῦς  
 περὶ πυκασθὲν, εὐκόμφ τε, πλάτανος ἦν φέρει, σκιᾷ,  
 θήσομαι μνημεῖον, ἔν τε καὶ τρόπαι' ἐνημμένα, 1821  
 ἔργα τ' ἂν τὰ πάντα γράψαιμ', εἴτε πολυεπεὶ λόγῳ,  
 εἴτ' ἐν εὐλύροισιν ᾠδαῖς· ἐν δὲ τῷ λοιπῷ χρόνῳ  
 πᾶς νέος τις ἄλκιμός τε, τῇδ' ὅς ἂν φοιτῶν κυρῇ,  
 τάδε νοῶν, ἐπ' ἔργα φαίδιμ' ἑξοχόν τ' εὐθαρσίαν  
 μᾶλλον εἰς' ἀναπτερωθεῖς· ἐν δ' ἑορταῖσιν ποτε  
 τὸν τάφον στέψουσιν ἀνθέων παρθένοι δωρήμασι,  
 κακόποτμον μόνον στένουσαι δυσγάμου γάμου μόρον,  
 δουλίων ἀρχὰς ὀδυρμῶν, ὁμμάτων τ' ἐφθαρμένων.

## ΧΟΡΟΣ.

πάντ' ἐπὶ τὰγαθόν, ἔν τε τελευτῇ  
 βέλτιστ' ἐξέβη, εἰ καὶ Ταμίου  
 τοῦ παναρίστου πυκνὴν σοφίαν  
 ἡγνοίησε τις· ὅψιν θαμὰ γὰρ  
 κρίνῃαι δόξας, ἅψ' ἀνελήλυθεν  
 αἰφνιδίον πως, ὡς νῦν, πρόμαχον  
 πιστὸν ἐπάρας, μάρτυς καίριος·  
 ἐξ ὧν Γάζῃ θ', οἷ τε συνώμοσαν

1830

And all that band them to resist  
His uncontrollable intent.  
His servants He, with new acquist  
Of true experience from this great event,  
With peace and consolation hath dismissed,  
And calm of mind, all passion spent.



ὥστ' ἀντισχεῖν τῷ δυσπαλάμῳ,  
 ξυνέβη κλαίειν· εἰ δέ τις αὐτῷ  
 κεδνὸς ὁπαδὸς, καινὰ μαθόντας  
 καὶ μάλ' ἐχέγγνα, χαίροντας ἐὼν  
 φρένα τ' εὐκήλους,  
 ψυχαῖς ἐνέπνευσε γαλήνην.





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